Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-113
Monday
13 June 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-113 *13 June 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Leaders Comment on Possible CIS Confederation *[Moscow TV]* 1
Shumeyko on Assistance for CIS War Veterans *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Jun]* 1
Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev on Eurasian Union *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 11 Jun]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Jun 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Lukin Remarks on DPRK 'Political Crisis' *[IZVESTIYA 11 Jun]* 4
Warns About 'Nuclearization' of Far East *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Panov Says DPRK Proposals Meet With 'Understanding' *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Reiterates Call for Meeting *[Moscow International]* 5
Duma Factions Issue Statement on Korean Peninsula Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Atomic Official Doubts DPRK Nuclear Potential *[Russian TV]* 5
DPRK Envoy Interviewed on Nuclear Crisis *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 11 Jun]* 6
Commentary on DPRK Nuclear Problem *[Russian TV]* 7
Russia, U.S. Agree on Sanctions Against DPRK *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev Addresses Council on NATO Partnership, Peacekeeping *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev Comments on NATO Program, Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Kozyrev Interviewed Prior to Departing Istanbul *[Russian TV]* 8
Kozyrev on Joining Partnership, Naples Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Foreign Ministry Comments on PRC Nuclear Test *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Yeltsin Security Aide on U.S. Lockheed Incident *[Moscow TV]* 9
Lukin Seeks Talks With U.S. on Bosnia Sanctions Move *[INTERFAX]* 9
Duma Committee Expresses Concern Over U.S. House Resolution *[Moscow Radio]* 10
World Bank Supplies Loan for Environmental Projects *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Jun]* 10
'No Criticisms' Following CFE Inspection in Chuvashia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Jun]* 10
Dubinin Assesses Black Sea Fleet Talks in Kiev *[INTERFAX]* 10
Cooperation Discussed With Armenian Parliamentarians *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Armenia Supports Russian Plan on Karabakh Conflict *[Moscow Radio]* 11
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Views Grachev Transcaucasus Trip *[10 Jun]* 11
Churkin: Chernomyrdin Visit To Latvia in Doubt *[INTERFAX]* 12
Moscow To Continue Mediation in Dniester Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Latest Moldova Talks 'Constructive;' Differences Remain *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Jun]* 12
Vietnamese Prime Minister Arrives in St Petersburg *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Visits Mayor's Office *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Shumeyko Comments on Latin American Visit *[Russian TV]* 13
U.S. Astronauts Visit St Petersburg *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
AL-QUDS Newspaper Relationship with Opposition Viewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Jun]* 14
Foreign Ministry Official Confers With Yemeni Ambassador *[Sanaa Radio]* 14
Military Chief, Syrian Counterpart Conclude Agreements *[Moscow Radio]* 14
State of Iranian-Saudi Relations Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Jun]* 14
Shumeyko on Closer Links with Bulgaria, Poland *[Russian TV]* 15
Delegation Arrives in Bulgaria *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Bulgarian Naval Chief Popov Interviewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Jun]* 15
Russia, Czech Republic Resolve Debts Problem *[IZVESTIYA 10 Jun]* 17
Finnish Prime Minister Arrives in St Petersburg *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Foreign Ministry Says Paris Club Ready To Negotiate *[INTERFAX]* 17
Aeroflot Spokesman Explains Aims of Boeing Lease Plan *[IZVESTIYA 9 Jun]* 18
Cypriot Foreign Minister Views 'Successful' Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 18

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Independence Day News Conference *[Russian TV]* 19
Gaydar, Burbulis React To News Conference *[Russian TV]* 26
Moscow Poll: Yeltsin Still Most Popular Politician *[Radio Rossii]* 26
'Russia's Democratic Choice Party' Holds Founding Congress 26
Russia's Choice Renamed *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Gaydar Elected Chairman *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Political Council Elected *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Program Adopted *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Gaydar Addresses Founding Congress *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Party Approves Rules, Program *[INTERFAX]* 28
Gaydar Interviewed on Democratic Choice Party *[Moscow TV]* 28
Kostikov: Democratic Choice Shares Yeltsin's Politics *[INTERFAX]* 29
Gaydar Party Seen Likely To Become Major Political Force *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 Jun]* ... 29
Filatov Wants Russian Democrats To Unite *[INTERFAX]* 29
Filatov on Road Toward 'Contemporary Federal State' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 11 Jun]* 30
Islamic Democratic Party Changes Name, Nominates Candidate *[INTERFAX]* 30
Opposition Parties Hold Demonstration in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Edict on Public Accord Treaty Implementation *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Chernomyrdin Denies Resignation Rumors *[Moscow Radio]* 32
Soskovets: Reports on Premiership 'Provocation' *[Moscow TV]* 32
Chubays, Luzhkov Continue Privatization Dispute *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Yeltsin Backs Luzhkov, Sees No Regional Threat *[SEGODNYA 11 Jun]* 33
Aide Dismisses Chubays Resignation Forecast *[INTERFAX]* 34
Intelligence, Counterintelligence Services Reunite *[Moscow Radio]* 34
Yerin, Stepashin Discuss Anti-Crime Measures *[Moscow TV]* 34
FCIS Creates Division To Fight Crime *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
MVD Seeks To Discredit Witness Alleging Torture *[IZVESTIYA 10 Jun]* 35
Government Decree on Environmental Action Plan *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Jun]* 35

Economic Issues

Filatov: 'Economic Policy of Compromise' To Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Soskovets Pessimistic on Economy *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Yeltsin Signs Edict on Banking System *[INTERFAX]* 37

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Grachev Says 300,000 Troops To Be Cut by Oct *[Radio Rossii]* 37
50 Percent of CIS Nuclear Missiles Dismantled *[Moscow Radio]* 37
Smolensk Nuclear Plant Reportedly Undamaged After Flood *[Moscow TV]* 37
Yeltsin To Decide on Possible Space Center in Far East *[INTERFAX]* 37
Cosmonauts Complete 5 Months Aboard Mir Space Complex *[ITAR-TASS]* 38

Federal Assembly

Federation Council To Discuss Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 38
Shumeyko Statement Marks Independence Day *[Radio Rossii]* 38
Shumeyko Chairs Conference With Regional Leaders 40
Center-Regional Balance Must Avoid 'Extremes' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Jun]* 40
Comments on Regional Interests, Budget *[Moscow TV]* 40
Duma Releases Statement on Budget *[Radio Rossii]* 41
Yavlinskiy Fears Confrontation Over Budget *[Russian TV]* 41
Duma Adopts Draft Oil, Gas Law *[INTERFAX]* 42
Duma Adopts Resolution on Local Self-Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Draft Law on Lobby Activity Pending *[SEGODNYA 11 Jun]* 42

Regional Affairs

Groznyy Denies Dudayev Undermined Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Dudayev Loyalists, 'Niiso' Party Members Exchange Fire *[INTERFAX]* 43
Fighting Continues *[Russian TV]* 43
Ossetian Leader Calls for High-Level Peace Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Two Peacekeepers Killed in Ingushetia *[Radio Rossii]* 44
Komi Republic's New Head Interviewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Jun]* 44
Implications of Komi Independence Viewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 9 Jun]* 45
Dagestan Adopts New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Counterintelligence Chief Flies to Far East *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Explosion Reported at Moscow Power Station *[Moscow Radio]* 46

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Vietnamese Prime Minister Ends Official Visit *[Kiev International]* 47
Kravchuk Discusses Black Sea Fleet, Russian Relations *[Moscow TV]* 47
Kiev Claims Progress at Fleet Talks *[Kiev International]* 48
Shmarov Outlines Main Problems *[Kiev International]* 48
Black Sea-Baltic League Conference Planned *[Kiev International]* 49
Zlenko Accepts North Atlantic Council's Crimea Stand *[Kiev International]* 49
Russian-Ukrainian Border Area Leaders Discuss Cooperation *[DONBASS 1 Jun]* 50
Radetskyy on Upcoming U.S. Visit, Russian Navy Base *[Kiev TV]* 50
Briefing Lists States Supporting Country's Stance on Crimea *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 9 Jun]* 50

National Affairs

Tatarstan Treaty Seen Model for Crimea *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 7 Jun]* 51
Crimean Vice Premier 'Sees Crimean Future Within Ukraine' *[URYADOVYY KURYER 9 Jun]* . 52
Kravchuk Submits Proposals on Measures for Crimea *[INTERFAX]* 52
Crimean Delegation Submits Draft Agreement to Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 53
Meshkov Approves Crimean State Affairs Service Regulations *[UNIAR]* 53
Crimea Presents Draft Treaty on Relations to Ukraine *[Moscow International]* 53
Lawmakers on Crimea, Creation of Constitutional Court *[MOLODA HALYCHYNA 7 Jun]* 53
Kravchuk Speaks at KhimVolokno Plant in Kiev *[Kiev International]* 54
Kravchuk, Radetskyy Hold Conference on Armed Forces *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 9 Jun]* 55
Government To Set Up Peacekeeping Forces *[Moscow Radio]* 56
Plushch Says Kiev 'May Soon Be' Leading Arms Exporter *[INTERFAX]* 56
Kravchuk Says Candidates Views on Leader Unclear *[INTERFAX]* 56
Reveals Presidential Election Program in Lvov *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Voters Back Kravchuk in Poll of Presidential Candidates *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Nova Khvylya Members To Support Kravchuk *[POST-INFORM]* 57
Democratic Association States Pledge Support *[UNIAN]* 57
Radio Questions Kravchuk's Unexpected Support in West *[Moscow Radio]* 58
Presidential Candidates' Chances Viewed *[VYBIR]* 58
Kravchuk Admits 'Possibility' of 2 Official Languages *[INTERFAX]* 59
Supreme Soviet Speaker Moroz Interviewed *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 10-16 Jun]* 60
Acting Socialist Party Chairman Holds News Conference
[DONETSKIY KRYAZH 27 May-2 Jun] 60
Socialist Party Leaders in Lvov Outline Policy, Prospects *[RATUSHA 28 May]* 61
Government on Rules Out Closing Down Chernobyl *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Contaminated Water Leakage 'Inconsiderable' *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Leak Confined Within Station *[INTERFAX]* 63
Another Water Leak Reported *[Moscow TV]* 63
Two Tonnes Per Hour Leaking *[UNIAN]* 63
Nuclear Power Plants Overfill Plan in May *[UNIAR]* 63

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Defense Ministry Statement Dissociates Army From Politics *[Minsk Radio]* 64
Hryb Praises Nazarbayev's Eurasian Union Plan *[PRAVDA 11 Jun]* 64

Moldova

Luchinskiy Comments on Russian World Role *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Opposition Leader Rejects Ethnic Minority Rights Bill *[BASAPRESS]* 64
PDMM Holds News Conference, Condemns Draft Press Law *[BASAPRESS]* 65
Tiraspol Accuses Snegur of Stalling Negotiations *[BASAPRESS]* 65
Joint Control Commission Examines Situation in Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 65
Delegates Issue Communique on 14th Army Negotiations *[BASAPRESS]* 65
14th Army Colonel Stirs Controversy in Tiraspol *[SEGODNYA 11 Jun]* 65
Russian Army Communique Protests 'Misinformation' *[BASAPRESS]* 66
Dniester 'Spy' Discloses Purpose of Mission *[BASAPRESS]* 66
Border Checkpoint Talks Begin With Romania *[BASAPRESS]* 66
Official Denies Police Force To Leave Tighina *[BASAPRESS]* 67
ALTM Accuses Government of Misinformation on Taxes *[BASAPRESS]* 67
Vice Premier Discusses Agricultural Prospects *[BASAPRESS]* 67

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on PRC Nuclear Test *[Almaty Radio]* 68
Nazarbayev Holds Talks With Estonian President *[ITAR-TASS]* 68
Comment on EAU, Russian Ties *[INTERFAX]* 68
Saudabayev Meets Foreign Officials in Istanbul *[Almaty Radio]* 68
Report on Nazarbayev Address to Supreme Council *[KAZTAG]* 69
Authorities Concerned Over Future of Baykonur Cosmodrome *[ITAR-TASS]* 70

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Urges Strengthening of State Power *[INTERFAX]* 70
Gives Reasons for Slow Economic Progress *[INTERFAX]* 70
Calls Russian 'Exodus' 'Catastrophe' *[INTERFAX]* 71
Akayev Sends Greetings to Russian President *[Bishkek Radio]* 71
NATO Chief of Staff Gives News Conference in Bishkek *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Government Adopts Resolution on Gold Project *[Bishkek Radio]* 71
'Epidemiological State of Emergency' Declared in Bishkek *[Radio Rossii]* 72

Tajikistan

Russian Army in Dushanbe Appeals for Weapons' Surrender *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
Russian Military: Tension Likely To Mount on Border *[INTERFAX]* 72
Afghanistan Border Situation Remains Tense *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
India To Grant Loan as Part of Cooperation Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 73
Rakhmonov, India's Minister Khurshid Discuss Cooperation *[Dushanbe Radio]* 73

Turkmenistan

President Fines Officials for Negligence in Fires *[SEGODNYA 10 Jun]* 73
Parliament Speaker Arrives in Tehran for 3-Day Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 73

Uzbekistan

President Receives Muslim Leader on Return From Hajj *[Tashkent Radio]* 73
Deputy Prime Minister Relieved of Post *[Tashkent Radio]* 74
Tashkent's Gas Stations To Be Privatized *[Tashkent Radio]* 74

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Grachev Reach Base Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 75
Grachev Optimistic About Results of Visit *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 75
Russian Delegation Arrives in Gyumri *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 76

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Possible Russian Military Presence *[INTERFAX]* 76
Aliyev Comments on Visit to Turkey *[Baku TV]* 76
Aliyev Meets Russia's Grachev, Seeks Military Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 77
Grachev Comments on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 77
Discuss Gabala Radar *[TURAN]* 78
Grachev Departs, Says Talks 'Successful' *[ITAR-TASS]* 78
Official Says No Russian Plans for Military Base *[TURAN]* 79
General on Russian Commitment to Karabakh Cease-Fire *[TURAN]* 79
Commentary Defends Right to Oil Fields *[Baku TV]* 79

Georgia

Reportage on Russian Defense Minister's Visit 80
Grachev on Readiness *[ITAR-TASS]* 80
Comments on Talks *[Moscow TV]* 80
Talks With Shevardnadze *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
Proposes Beginning Peacekeeping Operation *[INTERFAX]* 81
Government Approves Peacekeepers *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Grachev Departs for Baku *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Shevardnadze on Russia's New Role as Peacemaker *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Shevardnadze, Yeltsin Discuss Abkhazia Settlement *[Tbilisi TV]* 83
Shevardnadze Congratulates Yeltsin on Independence Day *[Tbilisi Radio]* 83
Georgia To Let Russia Build Military Bases *[ITAR-TASS]* 83
Shevardnadze Issues Edict on Armed Forces Reorganization
[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY] 84
Shevardnadze Proposes Measures for War on Crime *[Tbilisi Radio]* 84
Violence, Irregularities Mar Rustavi Election *[Tbilisi TV]* 85
Election Nullification Expected *[Tbilisi Radio]* 85

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

NATO Ministers Urge Agreement on Troop Withdrawal *[BNS]* 86
Meri Arrives in PRC for Cooperation Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 86

Latvia

Saeima Adopts Citizenship Bill *[Riga Radio]* 86
Finance Minister Notes Plans To Support Small Business *[DIENA 4 Jun]* 86
Finance Minister Warns Against Increased Tariffs *[DIENA 4 Jun]* 87
Consumer Prices Rise 0.2 Percent in May *[BNS]* 87

Lithuania

Proposals for Steps Under NATO Plan Delivered *[BNS]* 87
Russian Diplomat on Latest Round of Talks *[BNS]* 88
Six New Ministers Appointed *[Vilnius Radio]* 88

Leaders Comment on Possible CIS Confederation

LD1106204094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Today we have a link-up with Minsk and Kiev. The leaders of the two republics have agreed to comment in the "Novosti- Plyus" program on the statement made by chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko, who suggested that in all probability a confederation state will appear on the one-sixth of the dry land [former Soviet Union], which in future can easily change into a federation.

[Myacheslaw Gryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus] This is at present a rather difficult question. In principle, I do not reject a confederative structure in any state or group of states. But at present a somewhat different principle triumphs in the world. At present, it is difficult to find a federative state or group of states that would merge on purely federative terms, or confederative terms. There are elements of one and the other, and even something new is emerging, like in the proposals put forward by Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev. These contain a new proposal on the establishment of a new union. All this deserves attention, discussion, and careful examination. But in my view the first thing we should do is achieve economic union. This, I think, is the most important thing.

And meanwhile it is a holiday in Russia. We rejoice in this holiday and we send our heart-felt greetings. I convey greetings on my own behalf, on behalf of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the people of Belarus to the people of Russia, the Russian Government, and the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, on the occasion of this holiday, and wish them all the best on their road of independence.

[Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk] First of all I would like to convey greetings to the peoples of the Russian Federation on their national holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to wish success, happiness, well-being, and prosperity to all the peoples of the multi-ethnic Russia, to our closest neighbor and, shall I say, kinsman.

Another important aspect for all of us is that the proclamation of Russia's independence became a starting point for the proclamation of independence of other states. I recall that as soon as the Russian parliament adopted the declaration of independence, Ukraine, and later other states of the former Soviet Union, adopted their own declarations of independence. Therefore both in time and in geographical terms, and in any other imaginable way, this Russian independence holiday is related to the independence of other peoples and states.

For me, independence is the right to resolve independently those issues that every people, every state has to resolve for itself.

At present we and Russia are at a very crucial stage. I would describe it as a singularly important stage. We have begun drawing up a treaty of friendship, cooperation and partnership. A basis for this treaty is already in existence. We ought to resolve those issues that can, shall I say, complicate the signing and adoption of this most important document between the two peoples and state. One such is the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. We are making very difficult step, but they are still steps forward. That's what I would like to say.

Shumeyko on Assistance for CIS War Veterans

PM1006134394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 94 First Edition p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Care for Veterans"]

[Text] On the recommendation of Ruslan Aushev, president of Ingushetia and chairman of the Council of the CIS Heads of Government Committee for Internationalist Troops, the Interparliamentary Assembly Council adopted at its session yesterday a decree in which the attention of the parliaments of the Interparliamentary Assembly's member states is drawn to the necessity of providing internationalist troops and their families with a full degree of social and legal protection.

"The Interparliamentary Assembly Council adopted this decision affecting the future of more than 700,000 people with practically no discussion," Vladimir Shumeyko said in an exclusive interview for an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He emphasized that, unfortunately, questions of state social assistance and legal protection for veterans of wars and military operations in various countries are being resolved with difficulty in the CIS, and advocated improving the system to implement interstate legal acts on assistance to veterans adopted within the framework of the CIS, including the monitoring of their execution by the sovereign states' supreme legislative organs. Shumeyko expressed the hope that the programs for material and everyday and medical provision for war veterans agreed by the CIS countries will be backed by budgetary finances.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev on Eurasian Union

MK1106095794 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev by Vitaliy Portnikov in the "Leader" column: "Nursultan Nazarbayev: 'There Is No Need To Look for What Is Not There.' The Kazakhstan President Wants To Remember Only the Good Things"—place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Portnikov] Nursultan Abishevich, the full text of your project on creating a Eurasian union has been published. Has there been any initial response to this document, and, generally, what sort of response do you expect knowing the reaction that your initiative has provoked?

[Nazarbayev] There has been some reaction from the international democratic movement in Russia. Mr. Smirnov, organizing committee chairman, sent a cable advising that on 18 June a special forum will be held in support of this undertaking. Today there was a phone call from Sergey Shakhray who congratulated me, saying that he had read the full text in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: Thanks to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA for that. He fully approves of the text of this project and proposes to hold a special conference on the 14th that will be attended by leading politicians of Russia, including leaders of the Federal Assembly. My deputy chief of staff and the deputy premier in charge of these matters will go there. Prior to this there was a conversation with Eduard Shevardnadze, to whom I had earlier sent the document, and he stated his support. This seems to be all so far but still not much time has passed; some people thought that I just made an impromptu statement in Moscow speaking before chief editors in Moscow University. But in fact, this is an idea I have been contemplating for a long time. No one can be content with the CIS that we have today. Some 400 documents that are not being implemented. I am not saying that the CIS is not serving its purpose and that it must be disbanded. It must be good to have something rather than nothing. But the CIS is moving in one direction, and life in another. Now there are 65 posts on the border between Russia and Kazakhstan which look very much like border checkpoints, not customs houses, and I want to issue an edict unilaterally removing all customs barriers in the direction of Russia. I propose to put in place normal supra-national coordinating bodies. There should be no fear that sovereignty will be lost, and so forth. It is generally believed that common sovereignty is superior to each separate sovereignty of a particular state, and that it is more useful. If there is a Eurasian Union Executive Committee empowered to oversee the implementation of our documents; if there is a body empowered to apply sanctions for failure to observe an accord; if there is a real common economic space; and if we lift customs barriers, multinational companies and joint ventures will emerge, and producers will find their own way around. It is only essential not to choke off this way to them. [passage omitted]

[Portnikov] After your meeting in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and then after your official visit to Kiev; following your meeting in Ashkhabad with Eduard Shevardnadze, and then after your contacts with him in Moscow, some observers and politicians got the impression that a new axis of states, as it were, is being created, setting themselves somewhat against the growing influence and pressure from Russia. On the other hand, there are your contacts with your Central Asian colleagues. Regional integration here is also perceived in Russia as an alternative to the processes under way in the CIS and around Russia. To what extent do you think this perception is correct?

[Nazarbayev] I know about such talk. Some time ago the question of a Baltic-Black Sea belt was aired very broadly. I would like to say that Kazakhstan must never, and will never, engage in any intrigues against Russia. This does not respond to its historic or strategic interests. These interests are that Kazakhstan should have a friendly, close relationship with Russia, based on mutual trust. This is a strategic goal. None of us here has any objection when, say, Boris Yeltsin begins to work with Poland and Germany and a certain belt is being created there. As far as concerns our efforts, jointly with Uzbekistan and Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan], to create a single market space, lifting all customs barriers (people are only grateful to us for that), we are thus setting a good example. And, to avert any talk to the effect that we are forming a certain belt, let us form a Eurasian union. This is an open and fair proposition.

[Portnikov] You seem to have pretty good contacts with Ukraine, and still it is obviously not a candidate for the Eurasian Union....

[Nazarbayev] If someone does not get into the Eurasian Union, this does not mean that we should not have a good relationship with that party. We have extensive economic contacts with Ukraine. We have an extensive economic interest there. And they too have a big interest in Kazakhstan. There is a similar interest on the part of other countries, and we are developing trade relations with Iran; our trade with Turkey is growing fast; and our trade with China has grown 250 times in two and a half years. Therefore I want to state quite unequivocally: It is wrong to suppose that Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan, seeks to create some bloc, one not very friendly toward Russia. This will not happen; one should not look for what is not there. [passage omitted]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Jun

LD1106062494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0532 GMT 11 Jun 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 11 TASS —The fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the state sovereignty of the Russian Federation, which is due on June 12, is in the focus of attention of today's newspapers.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article on this subject, which is entitled "Forecasts Not Coming True: Russia is not Flourishing, but Neither has it Slided Down into the Abyss." The tactical and even strategic importance of this day in the struggle of the new centre with the old one, that of the Soviet Union, cannot be overestimated, the newspaper writes. "Against the background of the more and more obvious weakening of the Gorbachev administration the idea of sovereignty as a cure-all, as about the only hope for the revival, was gaining popularity and support ... It has been repeated too often, but it is a fact that Russia was virtually restored from ashes on more than one occasion after far more serious upheavals. So, the hope is still here."

The newspaper sets forth President Yeltsin's speech at the Friday press conference, devoted to Russia's Independence Day. The article is entitled "President Optimistic About the Future."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI frontpages the statement saying that to ponder over this historic date means, in the first place, "to ponder over the importance of this country. Even in the most difficult of times Russians continue to think about the role played by their country in the world. As a rule, such thoughts develop into ambitious projects and undertakings, which shake the foundations of this (and not only this) country and, unfortunately, do not always bring the desired results. Voices can be heard more and more often, which warn the authorities against taking hasty 'ambitious' decision, no matter how attractive they may look ..." The newspaper emphasizes the words of Sergey Filatov, chief of staff of President Yeltsin's Administration, that the coming anniversary confirms the fact that "by gaining independence, the Russian Federation has been preserved as an integrated state and continues to be consolidated."

TRUD frontpages a report about President Yeltsin's press conference under the headline "A New Political Reality has Taken Shape in the Country." The newspaper quotes the president's answer to the question of a TRUD correspondent about his assessment of propsects of the establishment of social democracy in Russia. Yeltsin's said: "I think there is a basis in Russia for the development of social democracy. We shall have a true social democratic party or movement."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA emphasizes Yeltsin's words that "I will not surrender Chernomyrdin, even to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA." The newspaper points out that Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays obviously lost the battle to Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and was publicly rebuked by the president, who asked First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets to tell Chubays to keep away from Moscow's problems."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and PRAVDA strongly criticise Yeltsin's performance on the post of the president. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries excerpts from a manuscript of Leonid Velikodny, former air force pilot, who describes the team of the authors of perestroyka as "amateurs and saboteurs."

PRAVDA publishes an article on the same subject, stressing that, in its opinion, the future of President Yeltsin is rather bleak.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a report about Yeltsin's press conference under the headline "On the Eve of the Third Anniversary of his Presidency, Yeltsin Announces All-Out Advance of the Economic Reform, but Puts Luzhkov in Charge of Privatization in Moscow."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries as well an interview with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, which deals with his plan of creating an Euroasian union. According to Nazarbayev, "Kazakhstan should never plan anything detrimental to Russia, and it never will. This does not meet its strategic and historic interests. It is in line with Kazakhstan's interest to be on friendly terms with Russia, to be close to it and confident of each other's goodwill. This is the strategic goal."

Jan Eliasson, head of the CSCE Minsk Group for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that he welcomes "Russia's energetic effort aimed at achieving ceasefire." "Russia's role in the region is indisputable, and we should take advantage of its knowledge and experience for settling the conflict," he said.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI publishes an interview with Sergey Shakhray. He believes that federalism today is the only way to preserve a stable political regime and the unity of the state.

Lukin Remarks on DPRK 'Political Crisis'

PM1006152794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 3

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "Vladimir Lukin Proposes His Own 'Sequence of Moves' in Approach to Pyongyang"]

[Text] The political crisis on the Korean Peninsula, which could assume a military-strategic and even a nuclear dimension, is capable of affecting Russia's national interests to a considerably greater degree than the conflict in Yugoslavia. This is the opinion of Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, which he expounded at a briefing for journalists.

It is not hard to predict that, in the event of the DPRK's joining the nuclear club, South Korea will acquire its own "deterrent force." The United States, which is interested in preserving the military balance, may see to this. As a result, there will be the increased likelihood of a nuclear altercation in direct proximity to Russia's borders—which would make the Chernobyl tragedy pale in comparison.

One consequence could be the "nuclearization" of the whole region, when even Japan, which experienced the horror of "a blast brighter than 1,000 suns," will overcome its allergy to the military atom.

Even if these apocalyptic forecasts do not materialize, the standoff on the Korean Peninsula, wherein the Cold War is threatening to escalate into a "hot" one, directly affects the interests of Russia's national security, and so an "ideological approach" to this developing crisis is totally unacceptable, Vladimir Lukin declared. It is not a question of "whether or not we like Kim Il-song."

In the opinion of the committee chairman, nobody can now confidently state whether the DPRK leaders are really seeking to get their hands on a tool of nuclear blackmail and deterrence or whether this is a clever bluff on their part.

If we take the second option on trust, Pyongyang's motives could boil down to securing international guarantees of noninterference in its internal political affairs—in exchange for access to its nuclear installations. In this case we should pick the "lesser evil," i.e. provide Russian guarantees and persuade our partners to take an analogous step, Lukin believes.

"I criticize the U.S. policy only for the sequence of moves," Lukin emphasized.

After pointing out that, in their approach to Pyongyang, Russia, South Korea, Japan, and the United States are united in maintaining and strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime, the former Russian ambassador to Washington proposed resorting to tough pressure methods only after the guarantees offered to the DPRK have elucidated its true aspirations.

At the same time he described as a mistake Moscow's statement about a kind of "freezing" of the friendship treaty with North Korea, which expires in two years' time. This deprives Russian diplomacy of almost its last "lever of influence" over its very close ally of yesterday.

Warns About 'Nuclearization' of Far East

LD1006115094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS— "Any further aggravation of the crisis around the North Korean nuclear programmes may lead to the nuclearisation of the entire region" with nuclear weapons appearing next in South Korea and Japan, which might eventually lead to another "Chernobyl" in the Far east," Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Russian Parliament's lower house Vladimir Lukin said at a press conference here today.

"I am in favour of the civilised approach to the situation which has taken shape around the possible creation of nuclear weapons in North Korea," Lukin said.

He explained that the approach in question stemmed from "Russia's determination not to allow the appearance of nuclear weapons close to its border. "It is not a question of our attitude toward aspects of North Korea's domestic policy, but of our vital interests which call for the non-proliferation of nuclear arms," he said.

As concerns the North Korean angle, Lukin said that the North Korean regime was probably seeing "its hind [as received] to the world community that it is able to create nuclear weapons inside the country as the only lever to make others take it into account". North Korea is averse to any intervention in its internal affairs, lukin stressed.

In this context Lukin thinks it wise for all countries concerned, i.e. Russia, the United States, South Korea, Japan and China, to begin negotiations with North Korea on the provision of guarantees of non-intervention in its domestic affairs. These negotiations should aim to obtain North Korea's agreement to inspection of its nuclear facilities.

All the countries concerned should resort to "collective resolute sanctions" against North Korea only if they find out that North Korea is using the negotiations in order to win time for the development of the nuclear arms.

Lukin stressed that he regards as a mistake the statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Russia is ready to fully or partially annul the treaty of friendship and cooperation with North Korea two years before the expiration of its term.

Panov Says DPRK Proposals Meet With 'Understanding'

LD1006111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—"Russia's idea to hold an international conference on the Korean peninsula's security and nuclear-free status are meeting with increasing understanding and support", Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told ITAR- TASS. The diplomat met North Korean Ambassador to Russia Son Sung- pil on Wednesday [8 June], and Chinese Ambassador Wang Jinqing—on Friday.

According to the deputy foreign minister, "nobody objects in principle" to an international conference, which should be attended, in Moscow's opinion, by representatives from North and South Korea, Russia, the United States, China, Japan, and also the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Panov noted that "the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is now calling much more persistently for such a conference". A sufficiently positive assessment of the Russian initiative was made by the North Korean Ambassador and somewhat earlier, in Kiev, by North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam. "They said that they regard our idea with full understanding, because it pursues the purpose of achieving a peaceful settlement of the problem. They are prepared to study it carefully," Panov stated.

According to the deputy foreign minister, "some people believe that first it is necessary to impose sanctions on North Korea and then to hold such a conference. We believe that this is a strange approach. There will most probably be no conference if the sanctions are clamped down".

Panov recalled that the procedure proposed by Russia was determined by President Boris Yeltsin. He believes that "the conference should be held first in order to make full use of all the available political opportunities, including talks. After that North Korea could be warned about the sanctions and then subjected to them. However, we think that things will not go to such length."

"At present," the Russian diplomat said, "we regard the conference as the only alternative, because the bilateral talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have landed in an impasse". He recalled that Moscow "did not object to the bilateral format, but since it has been exhausted, we must try to use the international version". "We proceed from the premise that it is necessary, first and foremost, to try this approach," the deputy foreign minister stressed.

Reiterates Call for Meeting

OW1006134994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Russia still insists that before imposing sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK], an international conference on resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula should be convened. Russian Vice Foreign Minister Panov reiterated this view in a meeting with the Chinese ambassador in Moscow on Thursday [9 June]. He had a similar talk with the DPRK ambassador earlier. The idea of calling an international conference was proposed by President Yeltsin, who maintains that North Korea, South Korea, Russia, the U.S., Japan, and China should participate in the conference.

Duma Factions Issue Statement on Korean Peninsula Situation

LD1006123794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—Duma factions of communists, agrarians and liberal democrats lead by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy took a joint stand once again. They issued a joint statement "on the situation in the Korean peninsula" which was circulated in the lower house of parliament on Friday.

These factons noted a sharp aggravation of the situation on the Korean peninsula, close to Russian borders. Deputies pointed out that "certain circles in the United States want to compel the DPRK to accept humiliating terms of the settlement of the so-called nuclear problem". In this connection representatives of the three above-mentioned Duma factions expressed "perplexity" at the statement of the Russian leadership which, in the opinion of deputies, "actually sided with one party in the conflict, South Korea".

The deputies expressed disapproval of Russia's decision to join in the economic sanction against the DPRK. "Our national interests would be suited by giving up power methods, creating conditions for a dialogue between the north and south of Korea and implementing the concept of a non-nuclear zone in the Korean peninsula", the statement says.

Atomic Official Doubts DPRK Nuclear Potential

LD1206182094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] North Korea can produce 65 kg of plutonium a year, the influential Japanese newspaper YOMIURI writes today quoting a statement by a senior CIA official.

[Begin G.Kaurov, department head in Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, recording] According to IAEA information, North Korea is in possession of grams or kilograms of unregistered plutonium. But grams or even one or two kilograms of plutonium are not enough to develop nuclear weapons, not even a single warhead. [end recording]

[A.Peslyak] The Ministry's official believes that the conflict between Korea and the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] started at a level of several grams of plutonium going unaccounted for.

[Begin Kaurov recording] In Japan 70 kg of unregistered plutonium-239 have been discovered, and the IAEA did not follow this with some special sanctions, in this case. [end recording]

[Peslyak] Although following an agreement concluded in the 60s, the USSR built a nuclear center near Pyongyang, with a research reactor, a chemical lab, and betatron and trained about 60 specialists. As of 1992, according to Kaurov, nuclear fuel deliveries and visits of specialists were suspended. On the other hand, according to Kaurov, as recently as 15 year ago U.S. journals openly published documents showing the structure of nuclear weapons. So it is difficult to say which actions could help in creating explosive devices. In order to develop weapons, however, Kaurov stressed, such actions are needed which would have been discovered by the technical intelligence services of many countries. This has not happened. It is necessary to ensure that North Korea stays covered by the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but, according to the Ministry's official, one should not get carried away. A diplomatic way toward nuclear control, sovereignty and universal security should be found.

DPRK Envoy Interviewed on Nuclear Crisis

PM1306095594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 1

[Interview with DPRK Ambassador Son Song-pil by Sergey Turchenko, date and place not given: "Threat of Blockade: Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, Talks About the Provocative U.S. Policy on the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] The situation on the Korean peninsula has flared up again sharply recently. The reason for this is apparently an internal matter relating to the DPRK's domestic economic activity: The latter has decided to replace some fuel rods at an experimental nuclear reactor. IAEA experts were invited in good time to monitor this work. Hardly had they had time to begin work than people in the United States kicked up what is clearly a propaganda fuss about the impossibility of the technical inspection of the fuel rods and began voicing a priori suspicions that the DPRK is producing plutonium for nuclear weapons. And it is on these grounds that the "world policeman" is demanding an economic blockade of North Korea and other sanctions. What is behind this campaign? We put that question to Comrade Son Song-pil, DPRK Ambassador to Russia.

[Son Song-pil] I want to stress that we immediately gave the IAEA experts all the documentation relating to the method for the technical inspection of the fuel rods. The same documentation was also sent to the U.S. side. They promised us that they would study it. We expressed a readiness for any compromise if our method failed to satisfy the specialists in any way. However, a calm solution of the question was clearly not in the U.S. side's plans. Without waiting for the specialists' assessment the politicians mounted a noisy propaganda campaign aimed at inclining the United Nations toward sanctions against our country. But the main task of the United States remains unchanged—it is to stifle a socialist state in Northeast Asia. In this connection we state that if sanctions are imposed on us we will take appropriate measures. At the same time we state that we will regard the imposition of sanctions as a declaration of war against us. At the same time we stress that we do not want to aggravate the situation and we believe that the nuclear problem can be resolved only on the basis of a simultaneous and comprehensive solution of all the questions connected with it.

[Turchenko] Can you tell us in greater detail what kind of documents were handed over to the U.S. side, because for some reason the press is saying nothing about them?

[Son Song-pil] They contain a technical description of our methods of measuring fuel rods. These methods have been approved and fully correspond to our technical capabilities. In this connection I repeat that we have informed the United States of our readiness for compromise options. But we have not received any suggestions from the United States. Apart from a completely unjustified demand for the inspection of two military installations which have nothing to do with the reactor. And that, after all, is a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty. We will not agree to such a step.

[Turchenko] Can you explain, please, what is meant by the simultaneous and comprehensive solution of the problem?

[Son Song-pil] The United States is demanding steps only from our side right now. We, however, propose that everything be resolved as a package. For our part we are ready to ensure the possibility of regular and random inspections under [po] nuclear guarantees. We are also ready to return to the framework of the nuclear weapon nonproliferation treaty, which the DPRK suspended in response to the high-handedness of the United States toward North Korea. This, so to speak, is our contribution to the settlement of the problem. But at the same time the Americans must renounce the threat to use nuclear weapons against our country. In this context the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases must be evacuated from South Korea. The "Team Spirit" military maneuvers directed against us must also be terminated.

In addition to all this we demand the renunciation of the provocative policy toward the DPRK and the normalization of relations with our country. That is the U.S. contribution to a solution.

However, the Americans are demanding that we unilaterally accept their jurisdiction and then they will see whether it is worth fulfilling our demands. The problem cannot be resolved on that basis, which is, to put it mildly, unjust.

[Turchenko] You spoke of appropriate measures in response to the sanctions. What do you mean?

[Son Song-pil] Concrete sanctions will lead to concrete measures. It is difficult to make predictions just now. But we have stated that if any country takes part in sanctions we will view that as a declaration of war with all the consequences that such an action entails.

[Turchenko] How do you view Russia's proposal to convene an international conference on the solution of the Korean problem?

[Son Song-pil] A conference is a step toward the solution of the problem by peaceful means. Of course, we give the due assessment to this proposal. It has special significance also because the Americans have stated that it is impossible to continue the Korean-U.S. talks. If an international conference is held on a fair and equal basis we will support it.

[Turchenko] Apart form the general proposal, has the Russian side provided any materials which give concrete substance to the form and content of the conference?

[Son Song-pil] Unfortunately our side has not received any such materials to date. I recently had a conversation with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Panov. The ideas suggested so far relate purely to the framework of this conference. It is to be hoped that this question will receive a positive development.

Commentary on DPRK Nuclear Problem

LD1206211694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Commentary by correspondent A. Peslyak; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [G. Kaurov, head of a department of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy, identified by caption] Korea is, perhaps, capable of developing nuclear weapons now, but we have serious doubts that Korea is actually developing nuclear weapons.

[Peslyak] So Russian nuclear specialists believe that Pyongyang does not have the bomb, while the West and South Korea stress in every possible way the reality of the nuclear threat in the peninsula. The problem, perhaps, lies elsewhere or not only in the dilemma of what course of action to take: Sanctions or conferences, pressure or a negotiated compromise? To count on inspectors being given access to Pyongyang's nuclear installations but in exchange for what? For direct talks with the United States? To give appropriate guarantees to North and South Koreas, to keep the peninsula nuclear-free? But what should be regarded as the cause of the current situation?

In the West's view, it is Pyongyang's blackmail and bluff plus indirect support from Beijing which has just carried out an underground nuclear explosion. But maybe, partially the reason is a search for a new image of an enemy after the old one represented by Moscow does not exist any longer for the United States and NATO? After all, an opportunity has appeared to justify nonreduction of military budgets and carry out some preparations, referring to somebody's intransigence.

One thing is clear: The Treaty on Nuclear Nonproliferation expires next year. If, in the international class, one pupil suddenly shows an indomitable temper in learning nonnuclear peace, will nuclear veterans have enough political tact and sensibility to use persuasion instead of arm-twisting? Other pupils will then see this as an equality-promoting experience.

Russia, U.S. Agree on Sanctions Against DPRK

LD1006172994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Istanbul June 10 TASS—Russia and the United States agreed to submit to the U.N. Security Council's consideration the joint resolution on sanctions against North Korea linked with the nuclear programme of this country and hold an international conference on security and nuclear-free status of the Korean penisular, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a joint press conference in Istanbul on Friday.

The resolution will be submitted to the U.N. Security Council's consideration "within the next few days", Warren Christopher pointed out.

Kozyrev Addresses Council on NATO Partnership, Peacekeeping

LD1006141494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Istanbul June 10 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has called on the international community to help Russia in its peace-making on territory of the former Soviet Union by sending observers and rendering material support at the current session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. In his words, Russia is carrying an increasing peace-making burden in former Soviet republics.

Closer interaction of the council with European neutral states, which are experienced in peace-making, would help to increase the collective peace-making potential, said the minister.

Kozyrev urged the need for closer cooperation of CSCE and the council in peace-keeping operations as it is envisaged by the council's plan for 1994, and suggested to form a corresponding joint working group.

The Russian concept of European partnership provides for coordination of military, political and peace-making interaction by the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the leading role of CSCE, Kozyrev told the council's session. In his opinion, the council can and must gradually transform into an independent body to be based on equality of all participants and not on the scheme of "NATO plus partners".

Kozyrev called for the involvement of a large number of CSCE members in the council activities, permanent contacts between the two organizations and the use of the council's abilities in the implementation of the Partnership for Peace program.

Russia is striving for deepened partnership with NATO without mutual vetoes and "surprises", Kozyrev told the council. "The Partnership for Peace program is starting. We plan to come to Brussels to boost a program of deepened cooperation between Russia and NATO, including a framework document, as soon as the NATO headquarters finalize the preparations," said Kozyrev.

Kozyrev Comments on NATO Program, Bosnia

LD1006174994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Istanbul June 10 TASS—Russia considers the Partnership for Peace program to be an area of European cooperation, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said here today upon the completion of his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Kozyrev said he will soon visit Brussels to give a boost to the Partnership for Peace framework document and the program of Russian- NATO interaction. He said this program should not include mutual vetoes and "surprises".

The Russian minister voiced the need for the soonest holding of the second conference on Bosnia with participation of ministers from Russia, the United States and five nations of the European Union but stressed the conference should be well prepared. He called on the conflicting sides for political settlement of their differences and termination of combat operations in Bosnia.

In his turn, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that his negotiations with Andrey Kozyrev discussed cooperation in provision of stability and security around the globe. The sides exchanged opinions of bilateral relations and called for the development of a constructive dialogue to help settlement of regional conflicts and differences.

Kozyrev Interviewed Prior to Departing Istanbul

LD1006215194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent A. Pishchayev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC] at the foreign minister level in Istambul, Turkey, summed up the results of NACC's work over the half-year. [passage omitted]

In a brief interview with Vesti prior to his departure by air Andrey Kozyrev noted that on the whole we have no fundamental differences with NATO. Meanwhile, he said, NATO members do not in all ways share the principle of the full equality of NACC members, on which we insist. They prefer the formula NATO plus partners. In particular this was reflected in the communique on the NACC meeting.

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] I could not agree with certain formulas, which to my mind take insufficient account of Russia's role. For instance, concerning Karabakh, a formula is being proposed that notes and stresses only the role of the CSCE. We do not demand anything special, but our interests must be taken into account. [end recording]

Kozyrev on Joining Partnership, Naples Summit

LD1006224194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2137 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 June—Russia would like to come to an agreement with NATO on forms of partnership before the meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the seven leading Western states, which is to be held in Naples next month. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said this on Friday [10 June] evening.

Speaking to journalists on board his plane to Moscow from Istanbul, where he had attended a session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, Kozyrev called on the parties "to finish their ideological disputes more quickly and get down to business." He had noted sympathy in this regard in his talks with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher, among others.

As President Boris Yeltsin said on Friday, Kozyrev noted, we are talking about the signing of a framework document and of the NATO- Russia program. Incidentally, the minister added, in the communique following the NATO council session, which has just taken place,

Russia's viewpoint is taken into account. It talks about a program that will reflect the Russian Federation's specific role and weight.

Russia will sign both the framework agreement and a substantive and much more thorough program for partnership as soon as the documents setting down the relevant agreements are ready. This should be done quickly, before the meeting in Naples, the minister said.

The minister was asked whether it was probable that the agreement between Russia and the European Union would be signed at the forthcoming meeting of European Union leaders on the island of Kerkira (Corfu), in which it is expected Boris Yeltsin may take part. "I think that this probability is constantly growing," Kozyrev stated. "The remaining matters are technical ones connected with the translation of the text of the accords into the languages of the countries involved in the agreement." According to the head of Russia's diplomacy the possibility of completing the necessary preparatory work in a short space of time was confirmed too during his conversation in Istanbul with Karolos Papoulias, the foreign minister of Greece, which is the current chairman of the European Union.

Foreign Ministry Comments on PRC Nuclear Test

LD1006162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—China has staged another underground nuclear test despite repeated appeals on the part of several states, including Russia, a representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry said here today.

"This event provokes deep Russian regret, the more so China did it at a time of the Geneva multilateral negotiations on comprehensive ban on nuclear tests, which has been supported by all nuclear powers," says the statement received by ITAR-TASS.

"We are also alarmed with the fact further Chinese nuclear tests may endanger the observation of the nuclear tests moratorium by other nuclear powers.

"We would like to hope that the Chinese side will understand its genuine national interests, comply with the appeals of the international community and together with other nations help to achieve complete termination of underground nuclear tests and fulfilment of the Chinese-declared intention to conclude a treaty on comprehensive ban on nuclear tests," says the document.

Yeltsin Security Aide on U.S. Lockheed Incident

LD1106191994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Interview with Yuriy Baturin, Russian presidential aide on national security, by announcer Sergey Medvedev; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Medvedev] Yuriy Mikhaylovich, this week the State Duma did not after all agree to allocate 55 billion [currency not specified] to defense needs and military theoreticians and military leaders are saying that the lack of nearly 15 billion does not allow them to either buy in new equipment or even repair ships. If that is the case, will this hit the our country's national security interests?

[Baturin] Here, the level of the budget that is now set is the minimum and maybe even less than the minimum, and the main danger for the defense capacity lies in the question: Are we able to maintain our high technology, our high technology production? In other words, those things in which we are for the moment ahead of other countries. If we lose these, then the damage to the defense capacity will be irreparable.

[Medvedev] The Security Council was due to meet this week. What happened, Yuriy Mikhaylovich? Why did the meeting not take place?

[Baturin] Nothing out of the ordinary took place. It is just that three members of the Security Council were out of Moscow and were unable to attend this meeting. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, as leader of the Security Council, postponed the meeting to another day.

[Medvedev] What was the theme for the cancelled meeting?

[Baturin] The issue of Russia's borders and, in particular, state border policy, the tasks of which were laid down by the president at the meeting at the high command of the border troops on 27 May.

[Medvedev] About the borders, more and more often we have seen them being violated. I do not mean just in those parts of the border where things are hot. Take for instance the recent incident with the American Lockheed. We still do not know what it was carrying on board.

[Baturin] I should tell you that the incident with the Lockheed 130 ended without any particular losses materially or in terms of status on both sides. But here, of course, we can see a symptom of the lowering of the general level of security, which is linked to the lowering of Russia's authority, something our country can hardly be pleased about. In point of fact, for a long time now the Russian air force has not flown to the shores of the United States and has respected state borders. The opposite, as you see, is taking place. This sort of inequality does not help to reinforce the trust between our countries of which we have so much need.

Lukin Seeks Talks With U.S. on Bosnia Sanctions Move

LD1006184394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian State Duma Committee on International Affairs may adopt a resolution disapproving of the

decision by the U.S. House of Representatives to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia, the committee's chairman Vladimir Lukin said today.

He told a news conference in Moscow that the decision made by U.S. parliamentarians could have a negative impact on the Bosnian talks.

Lukin said he intended to propose that representatives of the U.S. and Russian parliamentary committees on international affairs meet in order to discuss the situation.

However, next week the State Duma will consider at the second reading the draft law on the unilateral lifting of sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia by Russia.

Duma Committee Expresses Concern Over U.S. House Resolution

LD1106225294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The committee for international affairs of the Russian State Duma has expressed concern over the adoption by the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress of a resolution in favor of the unilateral lifting of embargo on arms supplies to Bosnian Muslims.

The statement adopted by the lower chamber of the Russian parliament notes that such a measure would lead to an escalation of conflict in southern Yugosiavia [as heard] and undermine the current peace process. In this situation the committee sees it as its obligation to reaffirm a recommendation to the president and the government of the Russian Federation to study the question of taking practical measures to lift unjustified sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

World Bank Supplies Loan for Environmental Projects

PM1306085594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jun 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Their Dollars for Our Environment"]

[Text] The World Bank has made a decision to grant Russia a loan of $110 million to implement a series of nature conservation projects. The World Bank is providing $45 million of that amount on a nonreturnable basis.

This credit issue is the result of more than two years of negotiations with the Bank in which the Russian Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources played the main role.

In connection with the bank's decision, Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, the head of the ministry concerned, believes that the loan will help to attract Western investors to environmental projects which are being carried out on Russia's territory. The minister said that it is planned to implement these projects in the most environmentally disadvantaged areas of the country and in particular the Lake Baykal region and Tula and Kemerovo oblasts. There is also a plan to create the necessary infrastructure of Russian nature conservancy organs.

The Ministry of the Environment has also announced that the Danish Environmental Protection Fund has made Russia a gift of $3 million for filter equipment for the Northern Thermal Electric Power Station in Moscow. The introduction of these devices will help to reduce discharges of nitric oxide from 5.5 tonnes to 1.8 tonnes a year and to subsequently close down several dozen boilers operating on obsolete technology.

'No Criticisms' Following CFE Inspection in Chuvashia

PM1306084394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 1

[Vladimir Kotlyarov report: "Show Us This Region...in Chuvashia"]

[Text] An international inspection team has been working in Volga Military District in line with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The group, which consists of seven German and two French officers, was headed by Bundeswehr Colonel Kh. Krizel [name as transliterated]. An inspection of the aforementioned region on the territory of Chuvashia has been carried out. The inspectorate fulfilled its tasks, and there are no criticisms of the Russian side.

Dubinin Assesses Black Sea Fleet Talks in Kiev

LD1006164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The Russian side assesses the round of talks on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet held in Kiev on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as "undoubtedly positive", the chief Russian negotiator, Yuriy Dubinin, told Interfax on Friday.

According to him, the agreements and understandings reached at the Russian-Ukrainian summit held on April 15 and at the subsequent talks between the two countries' premiers on April 23-25 were developed in the course of the Kiev round. "Our task was to ensure practical implementation for the draft agreement on the first phase of the efforts to resolve the Black Sea Fleet problem. We succeeded in opening many brackets in this area. The present round ensured a step forward on the road toward resolving these problems," Dubinin noted.

The talks will be continued on Russian soil, he said. "The Ukrainian delegation has been invited accordingly.

A concrete date for the next round will be fixed in the near future through diplomatic channels," Interfax's interviewee pointed out.

Pleading an agreement reached with the Ukrainian side, Dubinin refrained from revealing the essence of issues agreed upon in Kiev.

Cooperation Discussed With Armenian Parliamentarians

LD1106134394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow June 11 TASS—The speakers of the Russian Parliament upper chamber and the Armenian Parliament specified some items for their cooperation at their meeting at the upper chamber on Saturday.

Telling this to journalists, Russian Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko noted that a cooperation agreement between the two chambers of the Russian Parliament and the Armenian Parliament was signed on Friday.

The two speakers agreed that it is necessary to establish inter- committee parliamentary relations and develop their contacts while drafting legislative acts in order to boost ties.

Armenian Speaker Babken Ararktsyan stressed: "We highly assess relations in the framework of the inter-parliamentary assembly and claim at the same time that bilateral parliamentary contacts should be also developed".

The sides discussed problems connected with Nagorno-Karabakh at the meeting. Noting that the Bishkek protocol is still in force, Shumeyko stressed that the meetings of parliament speakers in St. Petersburg and Moscow "plotted a good road for the negotiating process to settle the Armenian-Azeri conflict with the participation of the third party—the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament".

The Armenian speaker invited Shumeyko to visit his country.

Armenia Supports Russian Plan on Karabakh Conflict

LD1206014594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] The head of the Armenian parliament, Babken Ararktsyan, who is visiting Moscow, said he supported Russia's plan for the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. In Ararktsyan's words, the position taken by Armenia fully coincides with the Russian position. Its main points are a cease-fire in the conflict zone, the disengagement of the warring sides and the introduction of the CIS peacekeeping forces into the buffer zone. These measures are designed to create conditions for resolving the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Views Grachev Transcaucasus Trip

PM1006165194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Gavrilenko and Oleg Odnokolenko: "Russian Defense Minister's Trip to Transcaucasus Another Step Toward Establishing Peace in This 'Warring Region'"]

[Text] Commenting on the first results of the trip to the Transcaucasus by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister, which began 8 June, observers are stating that Russia's military department, particularly of late, is increasingly having to tackle not just purely military problems but also political ones. Sometimes this is dictated by the nature of the situation which has developed on the territory of the former USSR and Russia's commitments as its successor, and also, as far as can be surmised, by a definite division of functions directly within the military structures. Moreover, the experience of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's previous contacts both with the leaders of Transcaucasian states and the heads of military delegations demonstrates that in a number of cases dialogue around the negotiating table is undoubtedly successful for the "diplomats in uniform."

Despite naming the objectives of his visit upon landing at Yerevan Airport, when Pavel Grachev noted that he had come "in connection with the start of the summer military training period which is designed to test the combat effectiveness and condition of the Russian troops stationed in Armenia," it is clear that the tasks he will address during his visit are far broader. This is evidenced by his plans to meet with the region's heads of state. The dialogue that has already taken place between the Russian Federation defense minister and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petroysan has been acknowledged to be fruitful by both sides. During the talks they discussed issues connected with the siting of Russian military units on the republic's territory, and also the possibility of young Armenian performing service in these units. It is well-known that under the treaty signed by the heads of both states, a Russian motorized infantry division is stationed at Gyumri in Armenia and another regiment is stationed near Yerevan. Army Gen. Grachev spoke highly of cooperation with Armenia's military department.

During their talks they also discussed the terms for sending peacemaking forces into the region. This problem will also be discussed by Army Gen. Grachev at his upcoming meeting in Baku 11 June with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev. On 10 June the Russian defense minister flies to Tbilisi, where he intends to meet with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze. According

to information from the Abkhazian Ministry of Information and the Press, Pavel Grachev also plans to meet with Vladislav Ardzinba, commander in chief of the republic's armed forces, and the Abkhazian Government; during this meeting he will discuss deploying peacemaking forces along the Inguri River.

Churkin: Chernomyrdin Visit To Latvia in Doubt

LD1006181994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow is warning that if the law on citizenship, which Latvia's parliament adopted Thursday at its second reading, comes into effect, "this may seriously complicate relations between Russia and Latvia," and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin may have to postpone his visit to Riga, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin told Interfax Friday.

Churkin said he hoped that the law on citizenship will not have an impact on the implementation of the agreements on troop withdrawal, on the situation of retired Russian servicemen and on the issue of the radar station in Skrunda signed by the two countries' presidents in Moscow. He said these agreements were too important to be affected even by such a serious document as the law on citizenship.

Moscow To Continue Mediation in Dniester Settlement

LD1006191694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—Russia will continue active mediation in settlement of the trans-Dniester conflict, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president Vladillen Vasev told ITAR-TASS today upon the completion of his Moldovan trip.

Slightly more than a month has passed since the signing of a joint statement by Moldovan and trans-Dniester leaders, he said. This period can be described as organizational. Working groups have been set up to focus on financial, economic relations and political settlement, which is the future state-legal status of the trans- Dniester region.

"Economic issues are natural and there are people who are tackling these problems. I think it will be easy for them to pull their efforts and elaborate corresponding agreements. They have already started to do it," said Vasev.

In his opinion, the issue of financial-economic relations remains difficult. It is a certain stumbling stone in Moldovan-trans- Dniester relations. "But I think the sides will solve this problem," he added.

The most difficult problem is still the state-legal status of the trans-Dniester region. The problem is in the focus of the sides' leaders and heads of expert groups - First Deputy Moldovan Foreign Minister Nikolae Osmokescu and trans-Dniester State Secretary Valeriy Litskay.

On the whole, the current stage of negotiations can be described as preparatory. "Despite certain differences and rather heated debates, one can say that the general stand of the sides has become more constructive, they intend to reach compromises and certain results have been achieved. The preparatory period is necessary to reach agreements. The sides have fixed no time for them, but it would be better not to drag out this period," said Vasev.

Latest Moldova Talks 'Constructive;' Differences Remain

PM1006144394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 3

[Sergey Knyazkov report: "Constructive Talks Held. But Differences in Timetable for 14th Army's Withdrawal From Moldavia [Moldova] Have Remained"]

[Text] Informing readers in yesterday's issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the progress of the Russian-Moldavian negotiations, at which the timetable for the withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from the territory of Moldavia was discussed, we presented some preliminary details. The delegation heads' news conference to a large extent clarified the sides' positions. According to the Russian delegation's leader, Vladimir Kitayev, on the basis of military experts' conclusions and calculations a period of four, not three, years will be required for the troops' withdrawal. Russia is prepared to look into the possibility of reducing this period, but it will be greater than Kishinev [Chisinau] expects—the latter considers that the 14th Army should be withdrawn no later than 1 January 1996. Nevertheless, it was stated at the news conference that this question has already been resolved as far as possible, and it is likely that the sides will come to a final decision at the negotiations' 10th round.

Indeed, not a single document was initialed in the negotiations' ninth round, but the outward "tardiness" of these negotiations going back to 8 August 1992 mask an inner tension.

"We do not want the troop withdrawal to be accompanied by mass actions on the part of Dniester Region inhabitants, rallies, pickets, and other excesses," Colonel Eduard Vorobyev, head of the Russian delegation's military side, explained. "We wish to take all aspects of the problem into account, and I believe the withdrawal will proceed in an organized manner when full mutual understanding between the Russian and Moldavian delegations is reached and the Dniester Region's interests are taken into consideration to such an extent that the

leadership and the bulk of the population of the Dniester's left bank will participate in guaranteeing this process."

It is worth reminding readers that since the start of the negotiations three Russian units have been withdrawn from Moldavia and 18 have been disbanded on site; also, eight interstate agreements have been concluded and are being implemented successfully.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Arrives in St Petersburg

LD1006162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 10 TASS—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived in St. Petersburg on an unofficial visit on Friday.

On Saturday he will meet with governor of the Leningrad region Aleksander belyakov and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak.

During his visit the Vietnamese prime minister will visit the Hermitage, the St. Peter Fortress and other places.

On June 12 Vo Van Kiet will leave for Kazakhstan and on June 15- 17 arrive in Russia on an official visit to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and hold talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

Visits Mayor's Office

LD1106201294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1918 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 11 TASS—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet paid an unexpected visit to St. Petersburg on Saturday to wait for the Russian prime minister to return from his vacation.

Originally, the talks between the 70-member Vietnamese delegation and the Russian Government were scheduled for June 8- 10, but were postponed because of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's vacation until June 15-17.

The remaining four days the Vietnamese premier decided to spend in St. Petersburg, Russia's second largest city and the twin city of Ho Chi Minh City.

At a meeting at the St. Petersburg mayor's office, Vo Van Kiet regretted that there is still some mistrust left in relations between Russia and Vietnam, but added that "Russia is a special friend" for Vietnam. "The former Soviet Union always helped us in the most difficult periods of Vietnam's life. We will never forget that," the premier said.

Shumeyko Comments on Latin American Visit

LD1106155694

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0525 GMT on 11 June carries a three-minute report over video in the Parliamentary Week program on Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko's recent two-week trip to Latin America. The program includes an interview with Shumeyko on the results of his trip. The date of the interview is not given. Shumeyko is seen seated behind a desk. Shumeyko says:

"I would like to emphasize that the visit was, of course, approved by President Boris Yeltsin and the Foreign Ministry at every stage. In other words, it was a simple parliamentary exchange worked out beforehand at the highest level.

"As to the issues we touched upon there—and I had meetings with presidents, foreign ministers, heads of both chambers of parliament where a country had a two-chambered parliament, and with business circles, banks and so on—as to, then, the whole range of issues we touched upon, they departed considerably from the usual sort involved in interparliamentary contacts.

"And the fact is that the geopolitical situation itself obliges us to maintain contacts of this kind today. Latin America is a traditional interest of the United States. That's quite clear. But the fact is that the bipolar world model has disappeared and the two superpowers no longer exist. They remain great and strong powers, but they are no longer called superpowers in the sense that they used to be. The blocs that used to exist between them aren't there anymore. And the Third World which used to be called the Third World has changed completely. You and I saw that in Latin America where things have changed totally.

"And so, although these are traditional zones of interest of the United States, the United States market cannot handle all the output they (the Latin American states) can produce today, however much it would like to. The Latin American countries have already shaken off their chains and are looking for partners. We're looking for partners, too."

U.S. Astronauts Visit St Petersburg

LD1206135894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text) St. Petersburg June 12 TASS—Russian cosmonaut Sergey Krikalev has mastered a new profession as he took American astronauts, with whom he was in space together on board the American Discovery spaceship, on a sightseeing tour around the city as a guide.

Four out of the six-member crew of the Discovery spaceship arrived in St. Petersburg, while the other two remained in Moscow on business. Jane Davis said when

visiting the St. Petersburg mayor's office at midday on Sunday, that the astronauts had often watched St. Petersburg from space, but close acquaintance with the city was all the more pleasant. The city is wonderful, the American guest said. Pilot Kenneth Roitler expressed confidence that the U.S. and Russia would continue joint experiments in space. Russian cosmonaut Sergey Krikalev pointed out that difficulties Russia is going through should not impede the development of national space research. Both the Russian cosmonaut and his American colleagues expressed readiness to make another space flight together.

On behalf of the space crew, a collection of photographs, including snapshots of the start of the Discovery, the astronauts on board and pictures of the astronauts, was presented to the St. Petersburg mayor's office. The city Mayor Anatoliy Sobschak was presented with a unique snapshot of the city taken from space.

On June 14, the American astronauts will depart to the United States.

AL-QUDS Newspaper Relationship with Opposition Viewed

PM1306094394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Orlov and Feliks Babitskiy report under the "Opposition" rubric: "'Pray for the Freedom of Palestine!' AL-QUDS appeals to Russians"]

[Text] The opposition's "second echelon," having found an attentive audience at the festivities of AL-QUDS newspaper held in Moscow 3-5 June, has yet again called on Russians to unite to fight "Yeltsin's hateful regime." The appeals from A. Nevzorov, S. Terekhov, S. Umalatova, and Ye. Ligachev have by no means facilitated stabilization. "Thanks to our rulers, the people are being destroyed, both morally and physically," Umalatova stated. "They are like vampires, in need of blood," she continued. "We have had enough of demagogues, we have had enough of philosophers!" S. Terekhov has called on people not to believe in the "clannish struggle" inside the ruling camp. "They are preparing," he warned, and advised people to do everything to see that they do not take "patriots" unawares. Yegor Ligachev proposed a plan for the restoration of the USSR.

Events with the participation of opposition leaders take place constantly. However, let us ask ourselves the question: Why is a newspaper with an Arabic name, published by Dr. Sha'ban Hafiz Sha'ban, and committed to the liberation of Palestine from Israel, attracting the Russian opposition to its pages and its parties? Why (as S. Umalatova has admitted) did Mr. Sha'ban fund the extraordinary congress of USSR people's deputies?

The motives by which Dr. Sha'ban is guided are obvious. First, he is committed to changing Russia's foreign policy in the Near East, to redirecting it from supporting Y. 'Arafat to helping the leaders of the Palestine opposition. Obviously, a further aim of AL-QUDS is to destabilize the Russian Federation's relations with Israel. Second, in the event of the hardline opposition coming to power, the network of commercial enterprises headed by Mr. Sha'ban would obviously receive most-favored status from the Russian leadership.

However, even if our assumptions are incorrect, one thing is clear—the main aim of AL-QUDS and its publisher is the destabilization of the situation in Russia, Which, in our view, by no means does them credit.

Foreign Ministry Official Confers With Yemeni Ambassador

JN1006170894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali al-Bujayri, our country's ambassador in Moscow, has met with (Joseph Vladimir), first deputy chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed developments in our country, and the issues that are of interest to the friendly bilateral ties.

During the meeting, the Russian official reiterated his country's position, which supports Yemeni unity, democracy, and dialogue among brothers in unified Yemen. He also spoke of his country's support for UN Security Council Resolution 924 on the situation in Yemen.

Military Chief, Syrian Counterpart Conclude Agreements

LD1006204894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Russia and Syria have concluded a number of military cooperation agreements in Damascus. Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the Russian chief of general staff, and his Syrian counterpart General Hikmat al-Shihabi signed twelve documents there on the expansion of links in the military sphere.

I remind you that a comprehensive agreement between the two countries was signed in April of this year. In particular it envisages the resumption of military deliveries to Syria, which were interrupted in 1991.

State of Iranian-Saudi Relations Viewed

PM1306092794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 3

[Ravil Mustafin article: "Persian Gulf: New Exacerbation of Iranian-Saudi Relations"]

[Excerpts] It has become a bad tradition that relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, those two leading forces in the region today, become exacerbated with the onset of the season of pilgrimage to the places in Mecca and Medina which are holy to every Muslim. A majority of observers link—quite reasonably—the cyclical growth of tension in this already unquiet corner of the globe with Tehran's attempts to politicize religious ceremonies for its own political and propaganda purposes. [passage omitted]

We should not expect a lowering of the level of rivalry caused by the two countries' desire to occupy the leading position both in the region and throughout the Islamic world.

Tehran, which aspires to the role of the expresser of the interests of all Muslims, will hardly resign itself to the fact that Riyadh, the "imperialists' accomplice," retains the title of custodian of Islam's main holy places. The contradictions between Tehran and Riyadh also concern a wide range of international problems, including the Near East settlement. Iran continues to deny the possibility of reaching agreement with Israel and advocates its destruction.

Under these conditions Moscow's position with regard to Tehran and Riyadh appears delicate, to put it mildly. On the one hand, Saudi Arabia is one of the greatest states of the Arab world, in which it objectively plays an increasingly weighty role by virtue of its financial, economic, and geostrategic potential and resources. True, cooperation between our countries has not enjoyed the necessary development, and the arms market is in the hands of Western companies—above all, U.S. ones—and will most likely be entirely geared to them for the next five to 10 years. On the other hand there is Iran, which borders on the southern underbelly of the CIS and with which traditional ties have long existed. In this situation there is no alternative but, at best, to urge the sides not to work toward something sinful, i.e. an altercation involving weapons.

Shumeyko on Closer Links with Bulgaria, Poland

LD1206213094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 12 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent L. Panova] Before leaving for Sofia today, in an exclusive interview given to Vesti, Vladimir Shumeyko, head of the Russian parliament's upper chamber and chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, said that everything necessary should be done in order to ensure that former Union republics that are now independent CIS countries could integrate together again as soon as possible.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] Many people can say here: Interesting, first the Union was destroyed, and now it is being pieced together. The thing is that the Soviet Union was a monolithic state supported by a single axis of authority—the CPSU. The party that used to make decisions on everything and for everybody does not exist today. Bulgaria and Poland were regarded as being so close to us that it was sufficient for the CPSU to make a decision on giving aid, sending a delegation, starting to build a factory or something else, and all this was implemented. [end recording]

[Panova] Bulgaria's and Poland's historical closeness still exists, Vladimir Shumeyko believes, but legislative decisions are needed in relations with that Far Abroad in order to unite states again as closely as possible in economic and political integration.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] Our parliamentary delegation which is going at insistent requests from the Polish and Bulgarian parliaments is of a state nature. During these few days we will try once again to identify all our points of contact. For instance, 10 Russian regions have direct links with Bulgaria. They should be backed at a state and legislative level in order to integrate together again. [end recording]

Delegation Arrives in Bulgaria

LD1206222494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1938 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Abrosimov and Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Sofia, 12 Jun—The Russian Federation Council's delegation led by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the chamber, arrived on an official visit in Bulgaria today.

At Sofia airport the guests were welcomed by Aleksandur Yordanov, chairman of the National Assembly (parliament). Talking to an ITAR- TASS correspondent he described the visit as "a culmination point in the contacts between the two countries' parliaments that have become especially active of late." I believe, he noted, that in the upcoming conversations we will find many points in common on issues of developing relations between Bulgaria and Russia in different spheres, and will also exchange views on the situation in the Balkans and Europe.

According to V. Shumeyko, relations between these two states are now being built on a basis of equality determined by ideas of freedom and sovereignty. At the same time, they do not hamper the development of traditional ties between Russia and Bulgaria. Both parliaments can do a great deal, first of all, "by orientating legislations toward each other," something without which progress in other spheres can hardly be expected. This is one of the issues to which we attach considerable importance, the chairman of the Federation Council stressed.

Bulgarian Naval Chief Popov Interviewed

PM1006153194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with Rear Admiral Iliya Popov, Bulgarian Navy chief of staff, by Captain 1st Rank Vladimir

Pasyakin: "Bulgaria Will Build Its Own Corvettes and Maintain Friendly Links With All Navies in the Black Sea"]

[Text] A Bulgarian naval detachment, comprising the corvette "Reshitelni" and the auxiliary "Kapitan Dimitur Dobrev," made a routine port call in Novorossiysk. Our correspondent met with the detachment commander, Rear Admiral Iliya Popov, Bulgarian navy chief of staff.

[Pasyakin] Mr. Admiral, what is the purpose of your call?

[Popov] In the first place, to continue the development of friendly links between our navies. Second, we wanted to give our commissioned and petty officers and seamen an opportunity to see the sights in this splendid Russian city and to meet with seamen of the Russian Federation Black Sea Fleet. We used the sea passage for combat training and improvement of our naval combat proficiency, including organizing the towing of ships and keeping watch, and for damage control exercises...

[Pasyakin] In your view, what are the prospects for the development of relations between our countries and, accordingly, between navies?

[Popov] I can only talk about relations between our navies, because relations between countries are the prerogative of presidents and governments. As well as the contacts that have already taken place between our navies, this year will see the "Briz-94" exercise, which is planned for 25-29 July. We have invited warships from many countries to the exercise. I am talking about two missile boats from the Romanian Navy, one ship each from the Ukrainian Navy and Russian Federation Black Sea Fleet, a Turkish frigate, two missile boats from the Greek Navy, and two ships from the U.S. 6th Fleet. Representatives from Georgia have been invited (we know it has no navy, but it does have access to the Black Sea). Recently I was told that Italy and France had shown an interest in this exercise. If they ask to be given the go-ahead to participate, obviously we will agree.

As for contacts with the Russian Navy, we have already exchanged preliminary protocols, which we intend to sign. They take account of what kind of ties there will be between our navies. On the basis of the protocol we will then sign a bilateral cooperation plan. In July there will be the exercise I talked about. In August the training ship "Gangut," carrying students from Russian naval schools, will call on us in Varna.

We have also planned some events for next year and they have already been agreed with our general staff. At the end of April, for example, we intend to hold a symposium, inviting all the countries of the Black Sea and Mediterranean regions. This symposium will be similar to the one in 1993. On that occasion we entertained visitors from 14 countries. This time we expect there to be more.

[Pasyakin] What are the aims and tasks of the exercise you mentioned?

[Popov] The task is Bulgarian Navy participation in peacemaking operations to provide humanitarian aid. The aims? First and foremost, to have the opportunity to get acquainted with representatives of the various fleets we have invited, to exchange experience. Second, to test communications and rehearse collaboration between ships from different states, and joint actions on damage control and protection of transports delivering humanitarian aid, and assisting a submarine "in distress"... In short, rehearsing episodes of a nonoffensive nature.

[Pasyakin] Mr. Admiral, how does Bulgaria intend to update its navy? According to my information, you used to buy your ships and equipment from the USSR.

[Popov] We are certainly faced with the task of updating our pool of ships. But it is too expensive buying other countries' ships. So this question, after consultation with the general staff and the Defense Ministry, evolved into the elaboration of our own national shipbuilding program. Civilian institutes with shipbuilding associations, shipyards, scientific research institutes, and plants producing what goes into ships—communications facilities, radar and navigation equipment, armaments—are participating in its creation.

The approval of the program by the general staff military council is planned for the summer. Then it will go to the Council of Ministers for its approval. Why? Because the intention is that the money should come not from the Defense Ministry budget, but direct from the state budget.

We are unable to buy foreign military technology with hard currency. It is very important too that the allocated funds should circulate within the country, creating jobs. We also want to involve other countries in the implementatioon of the program. And I am not just talking about foreign investments in our industry. You will agree that it is extravagant to make two or three ships just for our navy. Series production, that is, for other countries too, is cheaper.

[Pasyakin] Incidentally, what class of ships do you intend to build?

[Popov] Primarily, "corvette" class, of 900-1,2000 tonnes. But if we find a country that agrees to participate in this project, then serial production will increase, and we will even try to enter the world market. And not only with corvettes. I am talking about minesweepers and missile boats as well.

[Pasyakin] Since we are talking about financial problems, the next question is what is the naval funding situation? At the reception on your ship I saw publicity from several Bulgarian firms...

[Popov] The finance, and I am talking about the upkeep of ships, seamen's pay, and all the rest, comes out of the state budget. As for visits and foreign port calls by our

ships, like this one, we get a lot of help from sponsors—individual firms with which we conclude contracts. Sponsorship takes the form of goods. Gifts, souvenirs, food, drink. We are forbidden to accept money. We, in turn, advertise these firms' goods in foreign ports.

[Pasyakin] Mr. Admiral, what is Bulgarian military doctrine in relation to your navy based on today?

[Popov] A military doctrine has been adopted in Bulgaria which obliges us to defend the country. It is not possible for us to create a big navy in the Black Sea. The navies of the Black Sea states are much stronger than ours. The idea behind the development of the Bulgarian Navy, in accordance with the military doctrine, is based on the navy's basic task of weakening as much as possible forces that are trying to attack us from the sea. That is, to cause the enemy losses that would frustrate its aggressive plans. That is, the navy's tasks are purely defensive.

[Pasyakin] I know that the Soviet Navy's ships used to be repaired at Bulgaria's "Flotski Arsenal" and "Odessos" yards. What is the state of affairs in this sphere today?

[Popov] It is difficult to give a full answer, because the repair yard in Varna is not under naval control, but is directly linked to the ministry. I cannot say what the enterprise's plans are, but I would point out that a delegation from the Russian Defense Ministry went to Varna in April. An understanding was reached on the repair of Russian ships at our yard. We are interrested in these contacts. Russian orders will strengthen the yard's position, and ours too, since "Flotski Arsenal" also repairs the Bulgarian Navy's ships.

Russia, Czech Republic Resolve Debts Problem

PM1006131194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 3

[Boris Rodionov report: "Transfer Ruble Equated to Dollar Retrospectively. Russia To Pay Czech Republic 3.5 Billion By 2003"]

[Excerpts] Moscow and Prague have reached agreement on the terms of the repayment of the Russian debts built up in the last years of the USSR's existence and inherited by Russia. [passage omitted]

Russian Foreign Ministry circles are noting that this agreement is the result of a compromise brought about by the recent talks between [Czech premier] Klaus and Viktor Chernomyrdin. It makes it possible to galvanize Russo-Czech economic (and not only economic) ties—something that both sides are interested in. For Prague in particular it is important, in comparison with Bratislava, to make up some ground in its Ostpolitik.

The agreement between the Czech Republic and Russia may help to resolve the difficult problem of mutual financial claims between Russia and Poland and between Russian and Bulgaria. In these two cases it is a question both of the former USSR's debts to its partners, and of debts on the part of the partners themselves. And Moscow's dollar loans were kept secret. In the case of Poland, certain specialists believe, the zero option of a mutual write-off of the debt is possible.

The extent to which it is necessary to dump the ballast of the past in favor of wide-ranging trading relations is shown by the example of Budapest. Hungary was the first of the former CEMA countries to settle the Soviet debt problem, accepting MiG-29 fighters and other military equipment as payment. In lieu of the outstanding sum—$900 million—the Hungarians intend to take part in the privatization of the Russian oil and gas complex and other enterprises. The agreement has cleared the way for the gradual restoration of trade and industrial ties, and Hungary now occupies first place in trade with Russia among all the former Soviet CEMA partners.

Finnish Prime Minister Arrives in St Petersburg

LD1006134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 10 TASS—Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho arrived in St. Petersburg on Friday to attend the ceremony of the opening of the third plenary session of the Commission for International Assistance to St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region to attract investments and develop business.

Among members of the commission headed by Doctor Henry Kissinger and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak are representatives of state, governmental, business and acamedic circles of Great Britain, Russia, the United States, France, Finland and Sweden.

Participants in the plenary session will discuss new projects aimed at developing banks, agrarian business and the reconstruction of the St. Petersburg maritime port.

At the ceremony at the hotel "Astoria" the Finnish prime minister will address participants in the session and hold talks with chairman of the St. Petersburg government, Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. Late in the evening he will leave for Finland.

Foreign Ministry Says Paris Club Ready To Negotiate

LD1006115394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] The Paris Club, uniting 18 countries who are Russian creditors, is ready to negotiate with Moscow next autumn on ways of resscheduling foreign debt repayment on a long-term basis. Before, such loan-restructuring agreements were concluded annually.

"An upcoming agreement is to significantly change the structure of Russia's foreign debt, bringing it in line with

what the country can really afford to pay," says a statement, released by Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday.

In early June, Moscow and the Paris Club signed an agreement, deferring payments on a 7-billion-dollar Russian debt. Payments will be evenly distributed over 8-17 years with a 3-year easy term.

A senior Finance Ministry official reported to the Financial Information Agency that in subsequent negotiations with the Paris Club Moscow hopes to get a deferment for 1994 on the payment of yet another 20 billion dollars.

Earlier, the Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin declared that to secure a long-term debt deferment accord Russia must agree with the IMF on an economic program, which, if negotiations succeed, could be backed up by an IMF Stand-by credit worth 4 billion dollars. Appropriate talks are expected in autumn this year.

According to federal budget expenditures for 1994, Moscow is ready to repay a 4.1 billion dollars toward debts.

The former USSR debts total 80 billion dollars, about 10 percent of which is Russia's part.

Aeroflot Spokesman Explains Aims of Boeing Lease Plan

PM1006120794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Viktor Belikov report: "Boeings Replenish Aeroflot"]

[Excerpts] The first Boeing 767 leased by Aeroflot Russian International Airlines will be handed over in 10 days' time at the airfield attached to the world's largest aircraft manufacturing complex near Seattle. The second such aircraft will be handed over there a week later. [passage omitted]

The details of this unique deal were recounted by A. Brylov, Aeroflot's deputy executive director:

"The need to take out a five-year lease on the Boeing 767's was brought about by the fact that the number of transatlantic flights has increased considerably of late, there will be even more of them in the very near future, and our route network to the United States is expanding. We simply do not have the aircraft to service all these routes. After all, routes to San Francisco or Chicago have to be flown by modern, highly comfortable long-haul airliners—the distances involved are considerable and the passengers want a nonstop service. Otherwise they will use another carrier—all the more so as the choice of airline on these routes is getting wider and wider.

"The appearance of U.S.-made aircraft in the Aeroflot fleet will make our airline more competitive. These are reliable aircraft from the safety angle. They burn far less fuel than the obsolete Il-62's and the not very suitable Il-86's. It is also an important factor that American passengers traditionally place more trust in their own equipment, so this will make them more willing to fly with a Russian carrier.

"All this," A. Brylov continued, "is going to allow us to turn flights from the United States from today's loss-makers into a profitable operation—provided that the government authorities meet Aeroflot halfway and allow it to use the Boeings for five years without having to pay huge customs duties or import tax. During the five years of the Boeing lease, the Russian aircraft industry will be able to substantially increase the number of long-haul Il-96-300's it produces, and the U.S. airliners will be returned to their owner. For the time being, they will be beginning regular flights between Moscow and New York in July."

Cypriot Foreign Minister Views 'Successful' Visit

LD1006135594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Yerovchenkov]

[Text] Nicosia June 10 TASS—"I believe that my visit to Russia was successful from every point of view, and the talks I had with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow were very resultative," Cyprus Foreign Minister Alexandros Mikhailidhis told ITAR-TASS at the International Airport of Larnaca upon his return home from Russia.

"There are sufficient grounds for this success, because Russia and Cyprus are linked by good relations from time immemorial. We have a common culture and we worship the same religion. The peoples of our two countries are cooperating fruitfully in the economic sphere".

"I wish to note especially my talks with Andrey Kozyrev, which were marked by an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding," the minister stressed. "The Russian side has displayed not only its understanding of the Cyprus problem, but also readiness to help resolve it in every possible way. It is also pertinent to note that Russia is behind two out of the five versions for settling the Cyprus problem, included in the report of the U.N. secretary-general. All this gives food for satisfaction and we hope that a correct way was found to settle the Cyprus problem."

"Problems linked with the expansion of Russo-Cyprus economic relations were also thoroughly discussed in Moscow. For instance, we examined the possibility of implementing an inter-governmental agreement, which envisages the participation of Cyprus in the development of one of the Black Sea regions of Russia, mainly the Krasnodar territory. I have visited that region and it produced a very good impression on me. I think that our cooperation with the Krasnodar territory will be mutually profitable and successful."

"To put it in a nutshell," Mikhailidhis noted, "new broad vistas for deepening multilateral cooperation are now opening up before our two nations."

Political Issues

Yeltsin Independence Day News Conference

LD1006122094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Jun 94

[News conference by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin marking Russia's 12 June Independence Day; Yeltsin's opening remarks followed by question and answer session with foreign and domestic correspondents, moderated by Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov—live]

[Text] [Yeltsin] Esteemed journalists, ladies and gentlemen. We are starting to acquire good traditions. One of them falls on the eve of Independence Day, which has now become a state holiday. Since the state holiday falls on a Sunday (12 June), the government decreed today to announce 13 June a holiday. This is the first bit of good news for you.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on this holiday and to wish you success in your work and good health because I have come to a conclusion that healthy journalists are much more objective. Now over to business matters. One can say that yet another political year is coming to an end. That is why today we have the opportunity to sum up some of the results and to talk about the future. What, in my opinion, are the most important points? We have had a complex year. I won't dwell in detail on the events we have gone through. All of us have witnessed them. It is more important to define the influence those events had on the life of the country and the experiences, both bitter and useful, they brought about.

I do not really bear grudges against last year. One might say that it was a breakthrough politically. The Constitution, the dismantling of the system of soviets, the election of the Federal Assembly, and the creation of the system of representatives bodies in the regions have become real steps, or rather strategic steps that have already been made. I would not exaggerate if I say that a new political reality has taken shape in the country. The principle of all power to the Soviets has ceased to exist. The country is now living according to the principle of the division of powers.

We have succeeded in stopping the growing confrontation between the state bodies, which means stopping the growing confrontation in society. We have more cooperation and interaction. A dialogue between legislative and executive powers is already in place and is now making progress. There is a good relationship between the chairmen of the Federation Council and the State Duma. I am holding meetings with factions' leaders. I hope that these contacts will develop in the future. The mood of civic accord, which is gaining momentum in Russia, has been reflected in the Treaty of Public Accord.

This is not a conspiracy of those in power, as the hard-line opposition is claiming. This is a new social climate that is being established in our country. More than 800 parties, public movements, organizations, and unions have already acceded to the treaty. Leaders of all regions have signed up. Furthermore, quite a few of those who did not support the treaty in public but took an active part in its drafting have also signed. I am referring, first and foremost, to some of the groups in the State Duma.

An important result of the outgoing political year is the fact that the positions of extremist forces have been markedly weakened. The ranks of the hard-liners are thinning out. The opposition is increasingly inclined to civilized ways of political struggle. We now have an opportunity to direct our main efforts toward constructive work, toward easing the economic and day-to-day difficulties faced by ordinary people.

Political stability is a most important prerequisite for successful economic reform. The situation remains complex here. In January-May of this year industrial output fell by 26 percent compared with the same period last year. At the same time, we have managed to keep inflation at a relatively moderate level for several months now. Inflation in May was 8 percent, compared with 28 percent in January. This is lower than many forecasts.

Today's tasks are to hold down inflation, to energetically advance the reform of production by helping it out of the non-payments crisis. If we succeed in doing this—and I believe that we will succeed—then there is a possibility that we will halt the fall in production as early as July, and not just in July but from then on.

Judging from preliminary assessments, in the summer months the level of inflation will most likely not exceed 10 percent (per month). There are grounds to think that in July price increases will fall to six to seven percent.

However, I cannot rule out the possibility that the problem of regional unemployment—in certain regions—could get somewhat worse. An alarming situation is developing in Ivanovo, Vladimir, Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Kirov, and Pskov Oblasts, and also in the Republic of Dagestan. Here the government and local authorities must take urgent steps.

During the last month the president and government have adopted a number of decisions on ending the economic crisis and pushing ahead with reform. I have in mind the well-known package of six edicts. Today I signed a second package of six, making a total of 12 edicts aimed, first and foremost, at expanding and intensifying reform. I can list them if you like—you will ask questions anyway.

[Kostikov] Interfax correspondent Terekhov asked whether there would be any sensations today. So, let us give him a little present.

[Yeltsin] The first edicts were signed 23 May. They concern reform of state enterprises, certain aspects of

taxation policy, additional measures to normalize settlements and improve payments discipline in the national economy, implementation of a range of measures to ensure prompt and full payment of taxes and other mandatory payments into the budget, abolition of quotas and licences for export goods and services, Russia's federal highways fund, and the sale of state enterprises that are in debt. That was the first package.

Edicts on the following subjects were signed today. On housing credit: Henceforth, every young person starting work will immediately receive a housing loan. Then, as in the rest of the civilized world, there will be 30 years in which to pay it back; on the issue and circulation of housing certificates; on measures to complete the construction of incomplete housing projects; on improvement of the work of the banking system in Russia—this is one of the most complex edicts. Its implementation will also be difficult; on consumer protection.

So that makes 12 edicts. Three more are being prepared: On raising the responsibility of directors of state enterprises; on protecting the rights of investors and citizens in the securities market; and on customs regulations applying to goods for investment projects. There may be a number of others too.

There is no need for me to comment on them. Much has been said about them already. I will say a few words about the ones that you are not familiar with at present, the ones which, as I have just said, were signed today. These are major decisions on economic questions. Their basic aim is to move the reforms forward on a broad front. This is the second package, which consists of five edicts, there are 12 of them altogether.

First, there are decisions and edicts on the state's housing policy. It is impermissible that apartments should be beyond the means of the majority of citizens. The housing problem, the problem of having a roof over one's head, affects millions of Russians. So it is necessary to open up prospects for all of these in this very important matter. First of all, a system is being created making it possible to purchase housing by spreading the payments over a long period. A market is being organized in incomplete housing projects: Construction that the state cannot complete will be completed by businessmen. I am sure that things will then proceed more quickly and more efficiently. Everyone will gain—consumers, businessmen, and the state.

Second, we intend to provide reliable protection for citizens' rights in the securities' market. Americans know from childhood how to handle them. For Russians this is a new matter, which they do not understand and which many consider risky. We will protect citizens from misappropriation and fraud. Economic freedom should not be turned into freedom to cheat people. This will be put in order.

Russian business should understand that the time when it was possible to line one's pockets very quickly is passing and will not return. The successful ones now will be those who put all their energy and dexterity into production. The securities' market, just like other markets, should finally become civilized and humane. The time for talking about this matter has passed. The time has come for specific actions, and this means that advertising must be put in order, and that the people's right to trustworthy financial information must be ensured. We now have too many people promising fantastic dividends in the future or, say, promising houses in Paris, often without any grounds for this. This is simply deceiving people. One can promise people only what actually exists—the actual dividends paid, say, over a year.

Third, decisions aimed at improving the banking system. We intend to consolidate the unity of Russia's monetary system and strengthen the regulatory role of the Central Bank.

Fourth, crime has become a scourge for Russia. A lot is being said about it, but so far people have not felt any improvements. Criminal forces are trying to occupy key positions in the economy, they are even eager to go into politics. A barrier has to be put in their way. Scattered and desultory actions cannot ensure that this barrier is put in place. A special state program for the fight against crime has been adopted recently. The most important thing now is how it is being carried out. I have firmly demanded that professionals at the Interior Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] should free the country of criminal filth. Viktor Yerin and Sergey Stepashin, heads of the Interior Ministry and the FCS, are personally responsible for this.

Fifth, at present about 20 percent of the Russian population have incomes that do not ensure their subsistence, i.e. they are below the poverty line. This is real poverty. Another 20 to 30 percent of residents of Russia are on the verge of poverty. Today it is one of the most pressing problems in the country. The difficulty lies in the fact that it cannot be solved through some kind of emergency or one-off measures. Only political deceivers or adventurers can promise that next week we will have an earthly paradise. A national program to tackle poverty under the control of the president is needed. Its' aim is to take stock of the resources the country has, and to make effective use of them in order to help millions of people, to ensure real social protection for them. This program will be prepared together with the government, and its' implementation will be effected, as I said, under the president's supervision, confirmed by a presidential edict.

I have dwelt briefly upon several directions in our work, proceeding from the premise that the most important thing at a news conference is a dialogue with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to send my sincere greetings to all the people of Russia on the forthcoming Independence Day. For us, it is the day of the revival of the Russian state, and another opportunity to think about Russia, about our motherland, about its' past, its'

present and its' future, about what we have to do to strengthen it, to make life in Russia more prosperous and happy.

Now esteemed journalists, I am ready to answer your questions.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, you have not mentioned another important achievement of the past year, the emergence of independent television. This too is a vital aspect of democracy. So, the first question is from independent television, from Aleksandr Shashkov. Microphone, please.

[Shashkov] Boris Nikolayevich, those decision you have just been telling us about are, in all probability, based on the experience of the past years. It is three years now since you became the first president of Russia. Tell us please, what is the main lesson you as a politician have learned from these extremely tempestuous years of your presidency? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] This is a complex question, for there have been too many lessons, both positive and negative. But if I try to sum it all up, the main lesson the president should always remember, day and night, is his responsibility for his country. The existence of this responsibility, real responsibility, will bring about appropriate decisions and, of course, there will not be as many mistakes as we had before. I think that this responsibility should accompany every step of the president, whatever he does.

[Kostikov] RIA-Novosti, please.

[Unidentified RIA-Novosti correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, do you think the Civic Accord Treaty has achieved its goal?

[Yeltsin] Well, one probably cannot say that it has now achieved its goal, because it is, as it were, not yet complete—to borrow a term used in the construction industry, because I have just come back from a construction industry conference.

Nevertheless, 853 signed it, is that not so? There were 853 signatures to the treaty. This is a powerful force. And moreover, not just a Moscow-based force, but a regional force. It has already brought many levels together that have not closed ranks before or were not able to close ranks before or which were in confrontation. There are now accords and contact between them, compromise decisions are being drawn up, and so on and so forth. So, I think the treaty did give society an initial start. Society has become calmer. My recent trip to Tatarstan convinced me that the political situation in Tatarstan is good. People are in a calm and good mood. This is very important. The conciliation commission of this treaty has been approved by decree and will permanently monitor the implementation this treaty. It must be constantly encouraged, new life constantly needs to be breathed into it, so that it remains alive and topical, not obsolete. This needs to be done. I think we will be able to do it. But I am, of course, firmly convinced this step is an absolutely correct one.

[Kostikov] Nadzharov, please, Voice [presumably Voice of America]

[Nadzharov] Boris Nikolayevich, could you repeat today the point you have made that communism has been finally vanquished in Russia? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I believe that in our country—that is, I repeat what I have said before—communism will not come into being in our country. [Laughter] Of course, a communist faction and party will remain in our country, within a civilized framework, including in our parliament. There are several dozen of them in our country at the moment. We have always encouraged a multi-party system, and it should exist. There should be an opposition. It gives a more lively stimulus to the whole of life and to the whole of society, including to the leadership and to the president, although this is, perhaps, sometimes an unpleasant one. Therefore, there will continue to be communists, but their decisive significance is small and it will not increase. Their social base is now very, very small.

[Kostikov] INTERFAX, Telekhov.

[Telekhov] Boris Nikolayevich, you said when privatization began that you dreamed of there being millions of owners in Russia. Tell us, do you think now that the privatization campaign is finishing that there are millions of owners and that they are deciding the fate of Russia in some way? And this particular question: Where have you—if it is not a personal secret—invested your own privatization voucher?

[Yeltsin] I have indeed used my voucher, but unlike TV's Lenya Golubkov, I don't want to advertise this, so that everyone does not rush the same way. But millions of owners have emerged, there is no doubt about it, there are millions of them. And just look, when you are travelling by plane, you can see how many houses are being built in Moscow oblast, and everywhere else for that matter.

The first stage of privatization is coming to an end. Floatation of major enterprises is also nearing completion. Really major ones. Right now we are going through this process at ZIL [Likhachev Automobile Works in Moscow]. We'll go through it all right; it will only take a few days, and everything will be all right there. And after that we will have floated all the major enterprises. Well, maybe the nickel works in Norilsk will need a few more days. After all, there are 500,000 people there.

[Kostikov] I can see that the XINHUA agency wants to ask a question.

[XINHUA correspondent] Esteemed president, it is now one and a half years since you visited Beijing. How do you assess the present state of Sino-Russian relations, and what do you think of their prospects? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I consider that the documents we have signed are now working very actively. Although less than a full year has passed since the visit, our trade turnover has increased by 30 percent. Up until then it had been steadily falling. Each year it kept on declining. Then suddenly it has increased by 30 percent in the course of one year. This year, I reckon it will increase by more than 30 percent. Trade is being pursued very vigorously. We are in constant touch with the leadership of the republic and maintain contacts and ties. We are now discussing the dates for the PRC president's visit.

[Kostikov] Vasiliy Konarenko of IZVESTIYA.

[Konarenko] Mr. President, I would like to ask the following question. Roughly three years after the disintegration of the USSR, there remain two determining trends. Some regard sovereignty as the basis for their states' prosperity. Others feel it must be achieved through a revived union. That is obvious. What is your view on this, in particular, the idea of a Eurasian union? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I don't wish at this moment to offend [Kazakh President] Nazarbayev by making an assessment of his proposal. It needs to be studied. Therefore, I cannot of course say that this path is beyond question. I support the idea that the commonwealth should gradually evolve into some kind of confederative society, operating on the same basis as Europe, the European Union.

[Kostikov] TRUD newspaper, Kishkin.

[Kishkin] Boris Nikolayevich, how do you see the prospects for establishing social democracy in Russia? In the West it is very attractive to the electorate but in our country one can understand when an inclination for social democracy is shown by the wise Rybkin or by Gorbachev after falling out with the communists. Even Rutskoy, who recently stormed the mayor's office and Ostankino television center, declared himself a social democrat. So in our country will this not become a screen for something that is its direct opposite? Also, in general, do you share social democratic views? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] In general, I like the idea when, say, communists move over to the ideas of social democracy. Many of them have already spoken about this, that they find these ideas attractive and that they would be prepared to gradually reorient themselves toward this social democratic system. Of course, I have seen social democracy in various countries, in many countries. It is different in each country. It is very varied even though, of course, it has its own core, the social democratic core.

Unfortunately, you are right and this also grieves me, that in our country it has been seized upon by left-wingers, right-wingers and centrists, and all sorts of people, and people who simply do not understand politics at all. Therefore, it seems to me that a base does exist in our country for the development of social democracy. The foundations do exist in our country for such a real social democratic movement or party. But now it needs to be organized and it needs an organizer.

[Kostikov] Tamara Zamyatina of ITAR-TASS. One moment, Tamara, they are bringing the microphone.

[Zamyatina] Thank you. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich. Here is a question for you, if you will allow me, about Russia's international status, about how you assess it at present and about the prospects for Russia's entry into the Group of Seven and the European Union. If you will allow me I will broaden the question a little: Western analysts at present criticize Russian leaders and say that we, allegedly, in our efforts to enter the European Clubs are using the "proof by contradiction" method. We say that if we are not accepted it will be worse for you and we will set up a dictatorship. According to them we say little about the positive and constructive stimuli that our partners will gain by our entry into their organizations. Could you comment on this please.

[Yeltsin] First, concerning European structures. In order to join the Council of Europe one has to go through a long and complex procedure. This procedure is being followed. What is quite another matter, that even before we join the European Council, I mean Union—and not one of the 12 European states objects to Russian membership, since Russia is a European country and a great power—we want to proceed with the first stage, that is to sign an economic agreement with the European Union so that the rules of the game they follow among themselves, internally, would be extended on us too. Naturally we should not lose on it, we should profit by it, since we open up a stable European market. We did not have this stable market before—in some areas we succeeded in getting through, but not in others. Now, on the other hand, we have even reached agreement with France concerning uranium, as it were. We have also reached agreement on aluminum, and that with the last position. [sentence as heard]

In other words, the agreement—I would not go as far as to say it is ready—the wording should be as follows: It is virtually ready. So if this word "virtually" is no longer there, then on 23 June I will fly to the island of Corfu—no, it is called something else in Greek. What is it?

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, you have got a better memory than I, I swear. [laughs] Sorry. [laughter from audience]

[Yeltsin] Kokru or Kok...

[Voices from the audience] Kerkira.

[Yeltsin] Kerker, is it? Kerker then. Well, everyone has got used to calling it Corfu, right? Leaders of the 12 states are to convene there. It is there that accession to the European Council [as heard] or the signing of Europe-wide agreements of this kind usually takes place. If indeed everything is ready, and I very much hope it will be, I will go there for one day and sign the agreement. It

is to be signed by Jacques Delors, by the Greek chairman, who is currently chairing the European Council [as heard], and by myself. So that will be the beginning of the process of Russia joining the European Union, I mean council, I mean European Community.

[Yeltsin] Now, concerning G-7 and Naples, we are having serious discussions on this. Of course, I also read the foreign press and I have noticed that Russia is being reproached for suddenly trying to get into G-8, on what basis. Although I cannot understand what is meant by what basis. On the basis that we are a great country. Are there countries there that are bigger than ours, apart from the United States? No. Even our economic potential is significant. Well, in brief, of course by virtue of our economic level alone we cannot join a G-8 as a member with full rights with regard to economic matters. So we have decided to divide it up like this. They are to have two days of discussions in Naples—a day of economic discussions and a day of political discussions. In the economic one, they will consider Russia separately, and that is it. I will not take part in the general discussion. In the political discussion, I will take part in the general discussion from beginning to end. I will also take part in drawing up the general political declaration of what will already be G-8. So you cannot say that a G-8 has already been formed with Russian involvement. This is not so. But with regard to the political section, this is the case.

[Kostikov] One of our most popular youth newspapers, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS will soon be an old lady, it is 75 years-old and is celebrating its anniversary, so I think that we probably should not offend Mikhail Burevich so we will let him ask a question.

[Burevich] Thank you Boris Nikolayevich, this may not perhaps be a very festive question but what is your attitude toward the constant criticism directed toward you, including the caricatures and parodies that have been appearing in great numbers recently? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Yes, and your newspaper is keeping up with the others, of course. What can I say?

There is constructive, reasonable, human criticism, which does not wound people's dignity or humiliate them. I try to learn from such criticism and make use of it in some way, for myself, to draw conclusions. If this criticism is unreasonable, dirty, or offensive then I pass it by and pay absolutely no attention to it. Although I am sometimes encouraged to sue, I will not do this, I just do not pay any attention to it.

[Kostikov] We had a whole series of questions from Italian newspapers on Naples but Boris Nikolayevich has given an answer, has anticipated them. I turn to Sadi Amara who is representing a group of Arab newspapers, the microphone please.

[Amara] Mr. President, many people are saying that the Russian leadership is devoting more attention to relations with the West than to relations with countries of the so-called Third World. How do you see Russia's current relations with the Arab world and with the Near East, and more precisely, what is Russia's assessment of what is happening in Yemen today, and is Moscow prepared to recognize South Yemen as a fully-fledged member of the international community? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I took heed of your criticism at last year's news conference when you asked more or less the same question. We have broadened our foreign policy to take the East into account--both the Far and Near East, and to take Latin America into account.

[Yeltsin] We have had contacts with Palestine, and with Israel for the first time. I had meetings with Arafat, Mr. Arafat, and with Mr. Rabin. We also wish to promote peace there of course, and are participating in efforts to achieve this. All the signs are that this long-awaited peace may finally materialize.

We have always had friendly relations with Yemen. These tragic occurrences, these tragic events that have taken place there—they are of course a tragedy for the entire people. But we support Yemen and consider that it must be a fully fledged state within the world community.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, Nikolay Svanidze, the courageous Russian TV journalist who—it can be said—has taken on Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy single-handed, is here with us today. So it would be absolutely improper not to let him ask a question. I would merely ask him to confine himself to one question.

[Svanidze] All right. Boris Nikolayevich, the question is not about single combat. My question to you is as follows. As we know, anyone who finds himself wielding great authority, who is given great authority, changes. The more authority he gets, the more he changes. How much have you changed during the years of your presidency, and in what way have you changed? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] That is the question I ask my wife every week—because she can discern nuances from the way I walk, the way I hold my head when I am walking, and so on, you see. Well, it is somehow awkward for me to say that, it might sound immodest, but she thinks I have not changed much. I am as driven as I have always been. Sometimes I can be strict and tough, as I have been. But at the same time I can understand another person, and every time I travel I would go to the crowds to meet the people, I push myself in and talk to them, be it in Tatarstan, in Naberezhnyye Chelny, in Kazan, or in Tverskaya [street in Moscow], in a bookshop, marking Pushkin's 195th anniversary. I was talking to people the same as I had been doing three years ago.

My comrades and friends from my team, who usually always tell me the truth—it is a tradition that has been formed, there are several people who would not flinch from telling the president the truth, even if it is an unpleasant one—they have not told me that I have changed in any way. So I can sum up by saying that the only change is that I am aging in terms of years.

[Kostikov] Well, Boris Nikolayevich, even MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS is aging, so what is the point of telling people this...[laughs] Mayak radio now, Yuliy Semenov.

[Semenov] Boris Nikolayevich, my question is connected with the elections in Ukraine and Belarus. There has been all sorts of talk about this. Does Russia have any real interest in the possible outcome of these elections, and what might it consist of?

[Yeltsin] Very great interest. Of course, I cannot tell you whom we would prefer to see as president.

[Kostikov] Don't you remember that man near the bookshop with whom you had a whispered conversation, Boris Nikolayevich?

[Yeltsin] Well, he was a Ukrainian. [laughter] He promised he would not tell anyone. The Ukrainian people will deliver their verdict on this on 26 June. We will be guided by that.

[Kostikov] The newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

[Yermolin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Boris Nikolayevich, according to official figures from the Ministry of Defense, 75 percent of officers' families are currently living off income that is lower than the poverty line. Specialists reckon that the budget, which has been adopted by the State Duma, the defense budget, could push the whole of the Armed Forces beyond the poverty line. What steps could be taken to resolve this problem? That is a question to you both as president and as supreme commander in chief. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Of course, the budget that has now been adopted does not satisfy the military, but here the government and the military themselves must draw conclusions. The military themselves must carry out cuts more energetically. The lack of decisiveness here is incomprehensible. Today, as a society, we cannot maintain a three million-strong army, we just cannot. Was it three million for the whole Union or was it three million for Russia? Therefore, cutting the Army is one of the main questions, one of the main problems the Army itself must resolve, with help, of course, from the regional authorities, us, and the government.

Second, there must be some reduction in expenditure on orders for military equipment. There are reserves here. Experts have already confirmed that such reserves exist and that they can be utilized this year. Nevertheless, this will not fill the hole that still exists in the budget. So, I held consultations. I had long talks with Chernomyrdin before his departure. I had talks with Rybkin. I had talks with Shumeyko. Generally speaking, we will meet the shortfall from the budget, we will find the funds that the Army won't get from that source, by drawing on nonbudgetary appropriations. This is a realistic prospect. The $550 million we are getting from MiG sales to Malaysia were not included in the budget. They did not figure in this year's budget. That is what we call nonbudgetary appropriations. What can we do with $550 million? It will be handed over and this will completely cover the gap. That is what we will do. Especially as it is not just Malaysia. Thailand and Australia are also interested in our MiGs—to the very great dissatisfaction of the American side.

[Kostikov] Veronika Uscila, KOMMERSANT-DEYLI.

[Uscila] Boris Nikolayevich, does the edict on improvement of the banking system have a section on foreign banks? If not, will this edict be signed, and when? What is your personal attitude to the possible expansion of foreign banking activity in Russia? Thank you.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, you don't have to answer every question. The president can leave something in his pocket, as it were. [laughs]

[Yeltsin] Oh no, if I know the answer I cannot fail to give it. If I don't know, then I say I don't. But here I do know. I know that this section is contained in an edict I signed today. It is there. Yes, the president will be strongly criticized by our bankers, because real competition is starting. But it is really mind-boggling, this 185 percent bank discount rate that we have today. Can this be afforded? Who can afford a loan with this rate of interest, be it a private business, any enterprise, or a joint stock company? Very few can. But by attracting foreign banks to our commercial and financial scene, doing it gradually, very thoroughly and certainly not rashly, we can revive our entire banking system and lower the rate. Hence, better conditions will be in place for enterprises, for industry, for businessmen and so on.

[Kostikov] I have a question from a representative of the Russian Television Agency, called Beglov. I think he is the son of our famous Spartak Beglov, whom we all remember so well.

[Beglov] I want to return to privatization. Of late there has been a lot of fuss about how Yuriy Mikhaylovich and Anatoliy Borisovich came to quarrel—i.e. Luzhkov and Chubays. But this is not a private quarrel. [words indistinct] How do you view this and do you intend to reconcile them?

[Yeltsin] Well, I am of course well aware of this episode. I had hoped that they would sort this out for themselves. But it did not happen. Government attempts to settle the quarrel and reconcile the two did not work either. When Luzhkov addressed that big conference of 5,000 people here in the Kremlin Palace, he said that Moscow would not carry out privatization a la Chubays but would act in accordance with commonsense. Well, that is not fair on Chubays. But the Muscovites have already gone so far with their own program. This will not affect the rest of Russia. The others won't rush to follow suit because they are already pursuing the path set out in our programs, the programs that have been approved. So, there is no

danger of this. Today—in view of the fact that Chernomyrdin is on vacation—I told Soskovets to bring this issue to a close, to tell Chubays to leave Moscow alone.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA wishes to ask a question. This worries me because only yesterday they almost sent Chernomyrdin into retirement. I wonder who they will sack today! All the same, Zarytov....

[Yeltsin] Just don't go saying that they want to remove the president in the fall and send him off somewhere.

[Zarytov] Boris Nikolayevich, we won't remove the president!

[Yeltsin] I do not intend to go off anywhere until 1996.

[Zarytov] OK, that is clear. My understanding is that those edicts that you listed are forward-looking and geared to the summer and fall. Clearly they will require a frontal assault from the government, as you put it—in other words, great efforts. In this connection, could you take stock of the government's record during the past year? Are you satisfied with its activities? How close to the mark is the speculation in our own press and the Western press that a government reshuffle is in the offing? It has just been alleged that we at KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA intend to remove Chernomyrdin. Well, Boris Nikolayevich, would you be kind enough to give us your view?

[Yeltsin] I understand. Of course, it is very difficult for any government to operate in such circumstances. Life and work are not easy for the president, for you, for anybody living in Russia during this period. This also applies to the government. First of all, let me tell you what I don't like. I don't like a certain tendency, especially among state enterprises, to veer back toward planning. Admittedly, it is only a proportion of them. Naturally, this cannot be tolerated. Second, I don't like corruption in the middle ranks.

I have already had discussions with Chernomyrdin on the necessity for a serious purging of the apparatus. You know, so many people have been taken in, led by Vladimir Kvasov [head of the administration of the government of Russia], that it will be a long time till we sort everything out.

Third, what was signed a week ago and today should have been adopted two years ago. It has been said before, but there has been one delay after another. So only pressure, really hard pressure from the president resulted in those documents having been completed in just two days. Everything was agreed with lawyers and so on. Everything was completed at 0430 this morning. So if pressure is put, if there is no other way, then they finally start moving as they should. Which means that, generally speaking, they can do their work properly.

With regard to Chernomyrdin, I have never had any questions about his work in general, although everyone has shortcomings—I have and he has—that is understandable. Every week we have a very long discussion, sometimes one hour, sometimes two, sometimes six hours. We discuss many problems and issues in detail. So if there are any mistakes, they can be said to be joint mistakes, as it were, of the president and the government. No, I will not give up Chernomyrdin to anybody, not even to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

[Kostikov, laughing] Go ahead, but please introduce yourself.

[Unidentified correspondent] WPROST weekly, from Poland. Mr. President, could you please tell us if you have accepted President Walesa's invitation to visit Warsaw on 1 August on the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising. If you have not, why? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Unfortunately the invitation came too late. My schedule of international meetings until the end of the year had already been filled in. It is not an easy schedule. Therefore, there will certainly be quite a high-level Russian representative there, same as in Bratislava.

[Kostikov] Colleague on the right, please. No, higher up. Yes, I mean you.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Mr. President, please forgive me if I address you in English. It is a question from the....

[Kostikov, interrupting] We have no interpreter, so I will translate, Boris Nikolayevich. But do make it simple.

[Correspondent, in English with simultaneous Kostikov translation] Mr. President, in a month's time you will be in Naples for the G-7 meeting. As you know, there are ministers in the new Italian Government who cite the legacy of the fascist party. Many European leaders have voiced concern over the presence of these politicians in the Italian government. Do you share this concern? Do you believe that fascism is a real threat in the new Europe?

[Yeltsin] No, of course I do not think it is a real threat for Europe. As for Italy, as it were, it is after all an internal affair for Italians.

[Kostikov] Gentlemen, we have to finish presently, a couple more questions and that is it, so be prepared. Go ahead.

[Yeltsin] The time is up, actually.

[Kostikov] Yes, Boris Nikolayevich, but people are determined to carry on.

[Unidentified correspondent] Ekho Moskvy radio. Boris Nikolayevich, the lower house of the U.S. Congress yesterday adopted a decision to lift the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia, following the lead from the Senate. So now both chambers have passed this decision. Will there be any reaction from you to this decision? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I will soon be meeting Clinton, and we will discuss this issue again. We regularly keep in touch on all these problems. We had a telephone conversation recently, and he talked to me about it, but we still have slightly different views on ways of resolving this problem.

[Kostikov] The last question, you know we already have our traditions, we always try to please the ladies, near the third microphone please.

[Unidentified correspondent] MELBOURNE AGE newspaper, Australia. Mr. President, what is your attitude toward NATO's latest proposal on the Partnership for Peace program? Will Russia sign this document without any further conditions? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] If you had not added the last phrase, I would have said yes, Russia will sign, but with the last phrase...[Yeltsin pauses] You cannot call them conditions. We would just like to draw up a protocol with NATO on how we should cooperate within this complex mechanism, especially with regard to the military. It is a complex mechanism. It is a huge army, three million. This cannot be approached in a simplified manner. NATO has agreed to this, to sign such a protocol. They will sign the protocol and we will sign the Partnership for Peace document, we will definitely sign it. In the final analysis, even if this protocol gets buried in red tape, we will still sign it.

[Kostikov] Dear friends and colleagues, let us thank Boris Nikolayevich for the news conference, and thank you very much for your work. Good-bye, I wish you a pleasant, festive mood.

[Yeltsin] Thank you.

Gaydar, Burbulis React To News Conference

LD1006181494

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 10 June broadcast the nine-minute "Details" program which is presented by Nikolay Svanidze, and reports on the news conference given by President Yeltsin on 10 June. It includes brief interviews given to Svanidze by Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar, Gennadiy Burbulis, former Security Council state secretary, and Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays. The video is confined to these items.

Gaydar is asked why the reform process appeared to slacken in the summer of 1992 when he was Russian prime minister. He replies that a "powerful anti-reform coalition" had emerged at that time arguing for money to be pumped into the economy as a way out of the crisis. He points out that inflation was at the same level in 1994 as it was then and output was down by 30 percent. He asserts his faith in the need for reform.

Burbulis is asked if he has any advice to give Yeltsin today, and he says he would tell him not to listen to those who were saying that "those young democrats, including Burbulis, know nothing and are not capable of doing anything and cannot be trusted behind your back. I would try my best to warn Boris Nikolayich Yeltsin against those well-wishing loudmouths who, in my opinion, have already been very successful in their work."

Burbulis is then asked if a recent press report by correspondent Fedor Burlatskiy alleging that "the decision to divide up the USSR was made by a few young politicians, namely yourself and Shakhray, in a bath house" is true. He replies that he was impressed by Burlatskiy's ability to hide under a bath house bench and imitate a tub, and adds that "no one could ever have thought up a formula for bringing down the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union fell apart."

Chubays, interviewed in a corridor, is asked for his reaction to Yeltsin's statement that he should leave Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov in charge of privatization in the capital. Chubays says: "Everything is okay. The situation is like this: I am sure that the transfer of authority over privatization to the mayor of Moscow will lead to all those dramatic results that are already taking place in Moscow today, and will naturally now be intensified. Therefore, I believe that the results will be serious, but my position is clear—I submit to the president."

Svanidze then asks Chubays if Yeltsin's statement at the news conference was a surprise. He replies: "Of course not, of course not."

Moscow Poll: Yeltsin Still Most Popular Politician

LD1106205494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is still the most popular Russian politician, according to a public opinion poll carried out in Moscow in the run-up to independence day, by the Institute of Sociology and Parliamentarism.

At the same time, the number of people in the capital who agree with, or express some positive interest in, the president's policies is down from 55 percent in May 1991 to 28 percent in May this year. The number of Muscovites who do not agree with the president's policies has increased from 13 to 23 percent over this period.

'Russia's Democratic Choice Party' Holds Founding Congress

Russia's Choice Renamed

LD1206095194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0853 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Jun—Delegates of the founding congress being held in the Russian Parliamentary center,

have unanimously voted to approve the name of the new party, which will be called Russia's Democratic Choice [Demokraticheskiy Vibor Rossii].

The party has been created on the basis of the Russia's Choice movement and faction. But Yegor Gaydar, leader of the faction, pointed out that the word "democratic" was added to the name for the sake of definition and to indicate what kind of choice we are offering Russia.

The delegates of the congress have also adopted, as a basis, the program and the rules of the new party.

Gaydar Elected Chairman

LD1306074594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 13 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow June 13 TASS— The Russia's Democratic Choice Party has voted in favour of economist Yegor Gaydar being party chairman and Oleg Boyko, head of the National Credit Bank and chief of the Olby concern, chairman of the party's executive committee.

Boyko promised to contribute to creating an efficient organizational structure attracting more entrepreneurs to its ranks and boosting the party's publicity activity.

Political Council Elected

LD1306081894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 13 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 13 TASS— Yegor Gaydar has been elected the chairman of Russia's Democratic Choice Party. The results of voting by secret ballot were announced on Monday, the second day of the party's founding congress proceedings. Gaydar's candidacy was carried by 490 votes to 14.

The party's political council was elected as well. On the council are, in particular, Anatoliy Chubays, Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, Bella Denisenko, Boris Zolotukhin, Aleksandrr Pochinok, Sergey Yushenkov, Ilya Zaslavskiy and other prominent political and public figures.

Program Adopted

LD1206162794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 12 TASS—"It is vitally important today to have a united political force, capable of rallying and putting into effect the democratic and reforming potential of society. This is what the Russia's Democratic Choice Party is being created for," says the preamble to the programme of the new party, which was adopted as a basis today by its founding congress. The programme is an extensive document, which sets forth the stand of the new political organisation with regard to problems of the economic and social policy, the state setup, the anti-crime struggle, culture, arts, science, education and ecology.

The economic section of the programme describes as vitally important the reduction of the share of state expenditures in the budget and the gross national product. The new party favours the adoption of a long-term programme of the military reform, which will provide for the reduction of the army along with the reduction of its budget to the level of 3-3.5 per cent.

The new party finds it necessary to reform the tax system, to bring down the overall level of the income tax and lay emphasis on the taxation of land and immovables.

In the opinion of Russia's Democratic Choice, privatization is the main condition for achieving economic growth. The money received as a result of the selling of shares should be channelled not to the state treasury, but to enterprises themselves for their rebuilding, and investors should be given a possibility to buy the controlling block of shares.

The new party believes that the agrarian policy should ensure by all means the support for private and cooperative enterprises in the sphere of the marketing and processing of farm produce, for a further liberalisation of agricultural markets, the creation of the agricultural crediting system and the formation of mechanisms of regulating the land market.

In the opinion of Russia's Democratic Choice, the social policy should be based on principles of stopping excessive state protectionism, on the state's responsibility for the unconditional granting of minimal social guarantees in the sphere of labour remuneration, pensions, public health, education and culture.

As for the national security and foreign policy, the party believes that partner relations with industrially developed countries do not at all mean that Russia's interests will be "dissolved" in the interests of the West. "Even the closest allied relations provide for the active upholding of one's own interests. Under no condition will Russia agree to the role of a junior partner," the document says.

The party believes that the restoration of a common economic space on the territory of the former USSR is one of the key tasks of Russia's policy with regard to the former USSR republics. It is pointed out, however, that this should not be done hastily and with too much fuss.

Gaydar Addresses Founding Congress

LD1206111594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 12—"We are creating a party to defend future Russia and its dignity, turn it into a country of free and well-off people, "said leader of the "Russia's Choice" Yegor Gaydar, as he outlined the tasks of the party, addressing its founding congress today. The congress, which will continue for two days, is being held in the Russian parliamentary center.

Gaydar pointed out that one of the main tasks of the new party is to bring the truth home to the people and oppose demagogy and lies advocated by political adversaries. "We need a strong political organization, and therefore, we are creating a party," Gaydar said.

The pointed out that the fundamental task of the party is to create prerequisites for stable economic development. In his opinion, the economic course which has been pursued in Russia over the past 1.5 years is a course of compromise and fluctuations, which is, in fact, a departure from the solution of existing problems. "It is dangerous to repudiate a challenge, since this creates an instable environment which is a nourishing media for extremists' experiments, Gaydar said. If this tendency continues for another 3-5 years, the country will find itself under a colonial rule, Gaydar said.

Among cardinal tasks needed for Russia's normal development Gaydar mentioned defense policies and problems of security. He pointed out the importance "of conducting a consistent and steadfast military reform, which fully meets servicemen's interests". In his opinion, the existing army is "a too heavy burden for Russia and it needs reorganization." Gaydar said that it is necessary to reduce the number of the army personnel, saying that this does not mean any disrespect towards the army.

Another "colossal problem" faced by Russia is an enormous and inefficient state mechanism and an unnecessary large "army of officials," Gaydar said. In his opinion, one of the most important problems is the agrarian reform which has been practically frozen today. Gaydar pointed out that the agrarian reform should enter a new stage and that attempts to maintain the collapsing system of collective and state farms should be rejected.

Touching upon foreign policy problems, Gaydar said that relations with "near abroad" are the most important task. He pointed out that "it is necessary to work steadfastly for the creation of a single market on the territory of the former Soviet Union and the creation of the customs and currency unions. However, advocating the comprehensive development of integration on the territory of the former Soviet Union and the defense of the Russian-speaking population, Gaydar categorically came out against political scheming and the solution of other problems at the expense of Russian taxpayers.

Party Approves Rules, Program

LD1306161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Any Russian citizen aged 18 and more can join the newly formed Russia's Democratic Choice party, if he or she shares its fundamental principles, observes its rules and does not belong to other political parties.

These are the rules of the new party approved by the founding congress that ended in Moscow on Monday. It also approved as a whole the party program that should be finalized by the Council, a body that will lead the party between congresses due once in two years.

In the council each territorial chapter shall be represented by one person plus one delegate for each 80,000 voters who cast their ballots for Russia's Choice in the parliamentary elections in December 1993. The council will consists of a total of 134 persons, according to the party chairman Yegor Gaydar.

Closing the congress he said that many people expect the new organization to prevent extremists from coming to power, defend the right of citizens to a free and happy life, "a deserving future of Russia".

Gaydar Interviewed on Democratic Choice Party

LD1306134694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Jun 94

["Exclusive" interview with Yegor Gaydar, chairman of Russia's Democratic Choice, by Nikolay Ivanov; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Ivanov] You have said that the new party is not a party belonging to a certain class, is that not so? In your view, whose party is it, in that case?

[Gaydar] It is the party for those people who want a calm and dignified future for Russia. It is the party for those who do not wish their children to fight for a way out to the Indian Ocean. It is the party for those who are well aware that there is no going back, and that any experiments in that direction are dangerous, that we have one proper path—namely, to be a civilized, democratic, market society.

The problem with us is that we often do not know how to explain and defend these ideas and, as a result, yield the field of political struggle to people who have a single, very simple little idea, and a very dangerous little idea, namely: let's find a non-Russian enemy and try to turn Russian society against that enemy. So, in order to prevent such people from gaining the political arena we need a serious and effective democratic organization.

Kostikov: Democratic Choice Shares Yeltsin's Politics

LD1206152294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] A 507-strong constituent convention, held Sunday in Moscow on the initiative of the Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma, declared the creation of "Russia's Democratic Choice Party."

Co-chairman of the Ukrainian inter-regional bloc Grinev-Kuchma and the former deputy-speaker of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Vladimir Grinev greeted the convention. On behalf of the delegates, Anatoliy Chubays, who chaired the convention, wished the inter-regional bloc success in the June 26 presidential elections.

President Yeltsin's press secretary Viacheslav Kostikov refuses to recognize the new party as "presidential". But in terms of politics, he told newsmen, the new party shared much with the president and was a product of what Yeltsin started back in 1991.

According to Kostikov, the Choice's leaders had made no false moves to make Yeltsin join them. In response to a question from Interfax, Kostikov said the convention could yet receive a message of greeting from Yeltsin.

In Kostikov's view, the new party and Yeltsin ought to keep a reasonable distance between them.

Kostikov would not want to join the party in his capacity of a public servant. That would make it more difficult for Yeltsin to work, he said.

Gaydar Party Seen Likely To Become Major Political Force

MK1106091194 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 3

[Yevgeniy Yanayev report: "Criticism Could Be Heard Even at the Founding Congress"]

[Text] The founding congress of the party being organized by Yegor Gaydar, scheduled for 12 June, is attracting considerable attention. First, because this organization is associated with the president. Second, the congress can be seen as an attempt to create in a country with a multitude of minority parties the first real party of liberal-conservative orientation. Furthermore, the party organizers are making no secret that their main task is to ensure a second presidential term for Boris Yeltsin or a first term for Yegor Gaydar.

Yegor Gaydar is creating his party not under the best possible conditions, primarily because Gaydar's new party is based on the Russia's Choice election bloc whose showing in the December elections, according to official results, proved to be far from what was desired. Naturally, one also cannot ignore the general political apathy of the population, whose majority since the CPSU days has developed a steady allergy to any parties.

Furthermore, having invited Democratic Russia supporters to the new party ranks, Yegor Gaydar incurred criticism from right-wing elements for splitting the democratic movements. It is not ruled out that they will voice their complaints at the founding congress. Besides, even among those who agree to join the new organization there are differences in views on the principles of party organizational development. The former head of government is being urged to create a party not "to fit himself," also not to insist on rigid discipline, and to enshrine collective leadership. Yet chances are that there will be more Gaydar supporters at the congress—such authoritative figures as Sergey Filatov, Andrey Kozyrev, and Anatoliy Chubays are expected to attend—and therefore the new party will be established, and Gaydar himself will be elected its leader. Incidentally, according to information received from the Russia's Choice leadership, Yegor Gaydar has so far not been able to obtain assurances that Boris Yeltsin will be present at the founding congress.

In spite of all the problems, the new organization's potential capabilities look fairly serious. Rigid discipline, Gaydar's regular meetings with Yeltsin—giving the party some additional weight—free access for its functionaries to the corridors of power, and considerable financial resources—all this gives reason to suppose that Russia's Choice (unless, that is, its name is changed) will become one of the major political parties in the country.

From the Russia's Choice Draft Program:

—It is necessary to defeat inflation. The state budget deficit must be covered by floating state securities.

—A most important task is to reduce the tax burden, stimulating business activity.

—Encouragement of domestic and foreign investments should be accompanied by the provision of preferential conditions for small and medium-sized businesses.
—A major prerequisite for economic growth is privatization. We are for protection of private property obtained legitimately from legal sources, and we are against private property living off state property like a parasite.

—The party's agrarian policy envisions completion of reform in the countryside and formation of an effective property structure.

Filatov Wants Russian Democrats To Unite

LD1206165494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Sergey Filatov, the Russian president's chief of staff, expressed his regret that the democratic forces of the country were not united and called for convening a Congress of Russia's Democratic Forces.

Talking to journalists outside the hall where the founding congress of the Russia's Democratic Choice was held, he said that such a forum could be convened next fall to overcome the disunity.

Asked whether he would join Russia's Democratic Choice, whose congress he had helped to organize, Filatov said that he would do so if the platform of that organization suited him.

Filatov on Road Toward 'Contemporary Federal State'

PM1306090794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by ITAR-TASS commentator Tamara Zamyatina on interview with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian President's Staff, specially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI; date and place not given: "Sergey Filatov: Russia Needs a Policy of Accord"]

[Text] The fourth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Russian State Sovereignty 12 June 1990 confirms that, by gaining independence, the Russian Federation [RF] has survived as an integral state and is still growing stronger. That was the opinion voiced during an interview with your ITAR-TASS commentator by Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian President's Staff. Moreover, according to him, the problem does not boil down to ensuring the inviolability of state borders and defending the country against external threat. It is a question of creating a contemporary federal state in which both the regions and citizens of various nationalities enjoy extensive democratic rights.

Sergey Filatov recalled that Boris Yeltsin issued an edict 4 June giving 12 June the status of a RF state holiday. Since this day currently falls on a Sunday, 13 June has been declared a nonworking day in accordance with Russian laws.

In Sergey Filatov's opinion, the adoption of the new RF Constitution, the Federation Treaty, and the bilateral Treaty Between Russia and Tatarstan—a document that was the prologue to the establishment of new relations between the center and Federation components—were important milestones in the strengthening of the Russian Federation.

"The Russian president's recent trip to Tatarstan demonstrated that the bilateral treaty has helped secure total political stabilization in a republic where separatist sentiments were strong quite recently," my interlocutor noted.

On this basis it has become possible to formulate a program to strengthen the republic's economy by joint efforts on the part of the federal and republic authorities. Following the example of the bilateral treaty with Tatarstan, similar agreements will be signed in the near future with Kabardino-Balkaria, Bashkiria, and Kaliningrad Oblast.

As far as strengthening the state is concerned, the head of the President's Staff attaches great importance to the Treaty on Social Accord, which has been signed in the past month by 854 statesmen, politicians, and public figures. Boris Yeltsin's edict on the transformation of the Public Chamber under the Russian president into a coordinating conciliation organ is expected shortly in order to put this treaty into effect.

Tremendous work lies ahead in the sphere of regional policy, which has not so far been backed up with legislative acts—constitutions for republics within the RF, kray and oblast charters, and a law on local self-government, which it is intended to adopt in June. According to Sergey Filatov, the RF president's State-Legal Administration and Administration for Work with the Territories, along with the Ministry for Nationalities' Affairs and Regional Policy, will direct their efforts to providing Federation components with their own legislation in the near future.

Sergey Filatov said that the aim of state regional policy is to secure a "rich and uniform life for all Russia's citizens." However, attaining this objective is inconceivable without accord between the peoples inhabiting the RF. "Provided that there is accord we will secure economic and political stabilization as early as this year. If there is no accord you can postpone the dream of a normal life until the next century," Sergey Filatov concluded.

Islamic Democratic Party Changes Name, Nominates Candidate

LD1206152394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] The Islamic Democratic Party of Russia nominated for presidency at the upcoming elections in 1996 of its leader, Khadzhi Akhmadiyev.

At the congress of the Islamic Party in Moscow, where less than a dozen of representatives of the Moscow and Saratov party organizations took part, it was decided to change the name of the organization for a [as received] Moslem Civilized Party. Its leader Akhmadiyev received the right to appoint personnally people for senior posts of the party.

Akhmadiyev has told Interfax, the party has about five thousand members, mainly in places where Tatars live, and considers its potential partners all organization of the democratic spectrum. He said that even if financial aid is offered from abroad, for example from Iran, Iraq or Saudi Arabia, we shall not reject it to be able to take independent decisions without any pressure from the outside, said Akhmadiyev.

Opposition Parties Hold Demonstration in Moscow

LD1206183794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 12 TASS—Despite bad weather, a demonstration, announced by the irreconcilable opposition, did take place in Moscow. According to the estimates of the militia, some 2,500 people took part in it. Parties and movements included in the National Salvation Front marked today the fourth anniversary of the adoption of the declaration on Russia's state sovereignty with a march and a meeting. The initiative of holding the demonstration came from the Labour Russia Movement, the Russian Communist Workers' Party, led by Viktor Anpilov, the Revival Party and other organisations.

A column with streamers saying "USSR is our homeland", "All power to the soviets of working people" etc. marched under the torrential rain from the Triumphalnaya Square to the centre of the city by the Tverskaya Street.

The meeting was held in the very centre of Moscow, at the Teatralnaya Square. Opening the meeting, Sazhiy Umalatova, head of the permanent presidium of the Congress of People's Deputies, described June 12 as "the day of national mourning" and urged people to demand early presidential elections. Chairman of the Russian Party of Communists Anatoliy Kryuchkov, who took the floor after Mrs. Umalatova, has a different view of the tactics of the struggle. In his opinion, a massive civil disobedience campaign is the only form of the struggle that could be used in the current situation in Russia. Skurlatov, leader of the Revival Party, went even further. He described the existing system as an "occupation regime whose orders and instructions are all illegal" and urged to create "a Russian area of guerrilla warfare" and "parallel power structures."

Viktor Aniplov, the leader of the Labour Russia Movement, suggested that "working people should be persuaded to declare a general political strike."

The meeting was addressed as well by Vladislav Achalov and Oleg Shenin, leader of the Union of Communist Parties—CPSU.

Edict on Public Accord Treaty Implementation

LD1006210994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on "Measures for Implementing the Treaty on Public Accord [TPA]." The presidential press service released the full text of the decree today:

Measures for Implementing the Treaty on Public Accord.

To ensure that the articles of the TPA are implemented:

1. A Conciliation Commission for Implementing the TPA [CCITPA] is to be created in accordance with section 7 of the TPA.

2. S. A. Filatov, the head of administration of the president of the Russian Federation, is to be established as chairman of the CCITPA.

3. The chairman of the CCITPA is to set up the CCITPA within two weeks with the agreement of the Federation Council and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly, the government of the Russian Federation, and the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation.

In its work, the CCITPA interacts with the Federation Council and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly, with the government of the Russian Federation, with parties, with social and political movements, and with other organizations and establishments whose representatives signed the TPA. It also coordinates the implementation of the treaty.

4. Co-chairmen of the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation are to define more precisely the composition of the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation, to increase the number of its members taking into account the signing of the TPA; and to organize the analysis and the formulation of recommendations as to the implementation of fundamental provisions of the said treaty.

5. To set up commissions within the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president: on political stability; on social and economic problems; on the federative structure and on interethnic relations; on security; and on science, education, and culture. They are to analyze the progress of the implementation of the TPA and to work out recommendations that will be considered at a session of the Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation and presented to the CCITPA.

6. The Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president is to ensure the preparation of coordinated proposals on the implementation of the TPA.

7. The chairman of the CCITPA and co-chairmen of the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president are to brief the president on a monthly basis about the progress of the implementation of the TPA.

8. The department of the president's administration for the interaction between parties and public movements and the steering department of the administration of the Russian Federation president are to ensure the implementation of the TPA by the CCITPA.

Chernomyrdin Denies Resignation Rumors

LD1006172494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin returned to Moscow today. As you know, he was in Germany where he underwent a medical examination. Here is what the prime minister answered to questions from journalists at the airport today.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Viktor Stepanovich, how are you?

[Chernomyrdin] Why, I'm feeling O.K., can't you see from the way I look?

[Correspondent] What about your immediate plans, Viktor Stepanovich? What are you going to do today and tomorrow?

[Chernomyrdin] [laughs] Well, I intend to complete some things I started in Sochi. Next week there will be many serious things to do—meetings, another working visit. Now that I'm home I'll start working.

[Correspondent] You probably heard during your vacation about publications in the press concerning your possible resignation and so on. Do you not think that a very curious thing can be observed: As soon as the president goes on vacation, an incomprehensible version emerges [as heard]; as soon as you go on vacation rumors about a resignation and changes in the Cabinet appear. Whose interests do you think are served by this?

[Chernomyrdin] There are some who want to rock us all the time and keep the whole society, the whole country in a state of tension. These forces do exist. It is such a torment for the president, who cannot leave, cannot go anywhere, because fabrications and lies spring up immediately. Now they have reached me, too.

I am not really intent on staying in one place, but to stoop to such a mean trick—I just cannot find any other word—this is too much.

[Correspondent] Today, the president sided with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov in the dispute [with Anatoliy Chubays] over the privatization program. Do you know anything about this?

[Chernomyrdin] One cannot turn a dispute between two leaders into a conflict, as it were, on a nationwide scale. What matters is something completely different. What exactly? We only have one Moscow, and no doubt Moscow requires a special approach. What are the differences, very briefly? First, Yuriy Mikhaylovich [Luzhkov] insists on conducting cash-based privatization in Moscow. Quite rightly. The country in general is moving toward it, toward cash-based privatization, from 1 July. But to change the rules of the game now, while the game is in progress, to change them for the whole country—I believe that is not quite the right thing. As for Moscow, we will probably provide special terms, so that it can move to that stage earlier. The country in general will move to it from 1 July. There are also other peculiarities, which are acceptable for Moscow, but not, at this juncture, for the country in general. So here I cannot agree with Yuriy Mikhaylovich in every respect. [Anatoliy] Chubays is my deputy, the program has been drawn up and approved by the government, and we will be carrying out this program. [end recording]

Soskovets: Reports on Premiership 'Provocation'

LD1006145094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian in the 1100 GMT "Novosti" newscast on 10 June carries a 2-minute video report by correspondent Irina Mishina on an exhibition of new GAZ cars in central Moscow which was attended by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. After describing the cars, Mishina reports:

"Automobiles were not the only subject brought up. There was also mention of the reports in which journalists have firmly predicted that Oleg Soskovets will be the next prime minister."

A recording of remarks by Oleg Soskovets then follows. He says:

"This is obviously a provocation by your esteemed journalistic colleagues. They understand their role in the economic reforms as being constantly to provoke some political situation or other. I have no other thoughts on this subject."

Chubays, Luzhkov Continue Privatization Dispute

LD1006162294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—Attempts to reconcile Chairman of the State Property Committee Anatoliy Chubays with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov proved futile. Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a press conference here today that he had asked First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets to tell Chubays to "leave Moscow alone".

The approaching finish of the first stage of the Russian voucher privatisation has not reconciled the advocates of different forms and methods of this economically important process. Chairman of the Russian State Property Committee Chubays told a press conference the other day that "the great Russian squabble over privatisation has culminated in the latter's complete victory". True, he added that a fight was now going on over the results of privatisation. Of course, he himelf assesses them very highly. For instance, he believes it is a remarkable achievement that foreign investments were made in auctioned off enterprises. However, Chubays was able to mention only a few such instances, because the total amount of such investments is rather small.

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov is the most outspoken opponent of the current method of denationalisation. He claims that it was a total flop. During a specially called press conference here, he even described the current privatisation methods as a "forcible break-down of the state", because everything was being sold at dirt cheap prices, the democratic principles were being violated, and the rights of Russia's territories were being ignored.

The Moscow government has offered its own concept of further privatisation. It moves to prolong the validity of privatisation vouchers and to collect in a depository the unused privatisation cheques in order to "return to every man the part of the property initially promised to him". The head of the State Property Committee rejects both proposals. "The government's stand is clear: We shall not prolong the voucher privatisation in Russia," he stated.

The Moscow government plans to use its own, higher yardsticks for assessing the cost of privatised enterprises, whereas Chubays is mobilising his lawyers to check the legality of its criteria. The head of the Moscow administration warns against selling land on the territory subordinated to him, while the head of the State Property Committee is seeking legal grounds to privatise land. Luzhkov demands broader rights to local government bodies, so that they could determine themselves "what, when, and within what time limits they find profitable to sell". Chubays is ready to make only minor concessions as regards the sale of packages of shares for money. "What will the packages be like, to what extent will they be fractioned, and in what sequence will the sales be arranged—all this will be left for the local government bodies to decide," he says.

All this throws light only on the major problems that are being disputed not only by the foregoing statesmen, but also by various political forces. This does not promise a peaceful life to those who are linked with this historical process of altering the form of property in a huge country.

Be what it may, work on the programme for the post-voucher privatisation is nearing completion. It is to be submitted to the Russian Government on June 15. The latter will forward it for approval to the Russian president and the State Duma. Cash privatisation is to begin in July. About 70 percent of all the Russian industrial enterprises will be sold off by then for privatisation vouchers. Ten percent of the enterprises will not be privatised at all, while the remaining 20 will be auctioned off for money. The packages of shares left unused at enterprises during the voucher privatisation will also be auctioned off.

Yeltsin Backs Luzhkov, Sees No Regional Threat

MK1106082794 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Volkov report under the "Privatization" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin Asks Chubays To 'Leave Moscow Alone,' Hoping the Other 'Federation Components' Will Not Take Yuriy Luzhkov's Cue"]

[Text] President Yeltsin made a resolute attempt yesterday to end the conflict between Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo]. He announced that he had let Mr. Chubays know via Oleg Soskovets "that he leave Moscow alone." Boris Yeltsin believes there is no danger of opposition to Goskomimushchestvo policy in the other regions. "The rest are not going to rush to do likewise," he stated at a press conference.

Meanwhile, the conflict between the Goskomimushchestvo chairman and the Moscow governor has been resolved only in form. Clearly the differences that have taken on a political nature will only grow with the start of the post-voucher privatization where denationalization of real estate and plots of land acquires special importance. Goskomimushchestvo Deputy Chairman Maksim Boyko told REUTER that Russia "should energetically move forward on the question of privatization of land and real estate," in particular to spur reforms in agriculture. More than that, Mr. Boyko identified the future of privatized enterprises with "workable bankruptcy procedures" and with their "complete introduction in the market sector."

Meanwhile, Yuriy Luzhkov described Anatoliy Chubays' statements about the Moscow government's retreating from its own privatization program as a bluff, and announced that far from stopping to press on with "its own" variant of denationalization, Moscow is going to "strengthen" its actions in this direction. Clearly, the Moscow authorities would not like to lose effective control of real estate in the capital. Besides, it is quite probable that the government of Mr. Luzhkov will come out for taking into account the special nature of Moscow's production facilities before "taking them into a market economy," that is to say, to take into account "social consequences," "state interests," and other such factors.

As for what the authorities in the other regions of Russia are going to do, Goskomimushchestvo chiefs can hardly take comfort in the Russian president's assurances. Without a doubt Boris Yeltsin's support of Yuriy Luzhkov's stance will be taken by regional bosses as a sufficient pretext for vigorous actions to get rid of Goskomimushchestvo tutelage. On 9 June the influential interregional association "Siberian Agreement" formulated demands to the government and the president that the regional interests "connected with the principles and approaches to privatization in the post-privatization period in Siberia" be taken into account. In the opinion of Leonid Polezhayev, one of the association's leaders, "It is necessary, before it is too late, to take measures in order to preserve everything that can be preserved taking account of the interests of the Siberian regions." The regional elite is clearly not going to preserve the role of

the federal Goskomimushchestvo and follow its pro-market plans in effecting privatization. On the contrary, it wishes to retain as great a control over property as possible.

Aide Dismisses Chubays Resignation Forecast

LD1006183194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Russian presidential aide, Georgiy Satarov, said he does not believe that the fact of Boris Yeltsin asking Anatoliy Chubays not to be in charge of privatization in Moscow forecasts the latter's resignation.

Saratov told Interfax in an interview Friday that the disagreement between Chubays and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov had only a few more weeks to run. He said that after this a new stage would begin and the argument would no longer be relevant.

The essence of the conflict between Chubays and Luzhkov is the latter's demand to carry out a privatization campaign in the city in line with a special program which is at odds with nationwide legislation. This would help the Moscow authorities to increase the price of real estate. Chubays believes Moscow facilities should be privatized in line with the nationwide scheme without any special conditions.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow Friday, Boris Yeltsin said that as the two sides could not agree, he had decided that privatization in Moscow should proceed according to a special program which would not be applied to other areas of the country.

Intelligence, Counterintelligence Services Reunite

LD1106123694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Russia's intelligence and counterintelligence services have reunited their work. This was confirmed by Sergey Stepashin today. However, he did not specify whether or not the Federal Counterintelligence Service and Yevgeniy Primakov's service [the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service of which Primakov is director] would be merging organizationally.

Yerin, Stepashin Discuss Anti-Crime Measures

LD1106135294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] [Announcer Mikhail Zotov] A news conference took place in the government building on Krasnaya Presnya in Moscow today. Its theme was the intensification of the fight against crime which the power ministries are planning in the near future.

Vladimir Rubanov, deputy secretary of the Security Council, said that the benefit gained from the additional anti-crime measures, calculated according to UN methods, should be about 10 trillion rubles. Five trillion rubles will be spent on the measures themselves, and the Security Council will oversee the conduct of the campaign.

Aleksey Ilyushenko, acting procurator general, said that the procuracy would coordinate this work. In view of the provisions of the draft law on the fight against crime which permit the Interior Ministry to introduce agents into commercial structure, to create sham firms, and to work with securities, journalists raised the question of corruption. Viktor Yerin replied to this:

[Begin Yerin recording] We have special structural units which directly and on their own initiative engage in operational work among their own personnel, revealing unscrupulous people. [end recording]

[Zotov] And although Viktor Yerin considers that one must not violate the law oneself while fighting illegality, the participants in the news conference on intensifying the fight against crime were unanimously of the opinion that if the legislation was not in accord with the necessary measures to combat crime, it must be changed.

Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, pointed out to those assembled that the counter-intelligence service was restoring its investigative apparatus and that about 800 experienced personnel had already returned.

[Begin Stepashin recording] The president gave the go-ahead and draft decrees are now being prepared by [word indistinct] together with us, and these decrees on creating a directorate of active operations will be signed, most likely next week. It is rather broader than the Vympel group. It will be a directorate not only of the central apparatus but will also operate in a number of regions, in particular in St. Petersburg, in Krasnodar, in Yekaterinburg, in Novosibirsk, and in Murmansk. [end recording]

FCIS Creates Division To Fight Crime

LD1306100794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 13 Jun 94

[By CRIME-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow June 13 TASS—The Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCIS) is setting up an active operations division to step up struggle against crime, FCIS director Sergey Stepashin said at a news conference at the government building here on Monday.

The division will be established not only at the central office. It will also have its branches in big Russian cities, including Moscow, St. Petersburg and Novosibirsk.

According to the director, these changes are provided for by the federal programme for stepping up struggle against crime for 1994-1995. The FCIS is vested with new, but, in actual fact, old forgotten functions, including the return of investigative bodies.

In the near future, some 700-800 investigators having experience of work in security bodies will get down to work at the service.

In Stepashin's opinion, clear-cut and efficient cooperation between his service, on the one hand, and the law enforcement bodies, the security service of banks, currency exchange points, tax investigation service and, if need be, the president's security service as well as other interested structures, on the other, will help to implement successfully the federal programme for stepping up struggle against crime.

MVD Seeks To Discredit Witness Alleging Torture

PM1006151794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 2

[Igor Korolkov report: "MVD Organs Bring Criminal Case Against Accused Who Testified in Court About Human Rights Violation"]

[Excerpts] IZVESTIYA published the article "Torture Used in Russian Detention Centers, Claim Defendants in Case before Moscow City Court" 25 February this year. One of the people quoted by IZVESTIYA was Aleksandr Morozov. A criminal case has been brought against him.

In the four and a half years' investigation and judicial examination Morozov has repeatedly tried to draw the attention of detention center management, the Prosecutor's Office, and the courts to the numerous violations of the law governing investigations and to the inhuman conditions under which people are detained at these centers. Protesting a violation of the law in the conduct of the case, Morozov went on hunger strike—as a result of which, he claims, his arms and legs started to wither away. Investigator Kharchenko thought that the accused was faking illness and sent him to the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences' Neurology Scientific Research Institute. There, Morozov claims, strong electric shocks were administered to him against his will.

Investigator Kharchenko called on the Moscow Prosecutor's Office to bring a criminal case against Morozov. Since Morozov, the investigator believes, was to all intents and purposes accusing him of using torture, he termed the accused's testimony slanderous and "combined with accusations of the commission of a state or other serious crime" under Article 130 Section III. The statement was sent to the 108th militia precinct, which was charged with carrying out the interrogation. [passage omitted]

Morozov has submitted around 600 complaints, statements, and petitions. Neither the Prosecutor's Office nor the courts have yet checked out the facts set out by the accused, even though he has continually pressed for it. But, as soon as the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] investigator who was mentioned in the accused's statement submitted his own statement, criminal proceedings were immediately instituted. That is a more than eloquent fact!

I would recall that, after the IZVESTIYA article, the State Duma set up a parliamentary commission to look into the facts set out in the newspaper about the violation of human rights at Russian detention centers as a whole. The powerful departments whose interests were attacked in the article are well aware of the dangers of such checks. As we have already reported, a highly placed MVD staffer phoned the commission chairman to express resolute dissatisfaction with the creation of the commission. We must assume that this is why efforts are being made to discredit witnesses.

Government Decree on Environmental Action Plan

PM1306090794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 94 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 496 of the Russian Federation Government "On the Russian Federation Government's Action Plan To Protect the Environment in 1994-1995," dated Moscow, 18 May 1994 and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin]

[Text] In order to create the necessary conditions for implementing the basic guidelines of the Russian Federation's state strategy to protect the environment and ensure steady development as approved by the Russian Federation president's edict No. 236 dated 4 February 1994, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The proposed Russian Federation Government action plan to protect the environment in 1994-1995 shall be ratified as the first stage of implementing the basic guidelines of the Russian Federation state strategy to protect the environment and ensure steady development.

2. Organs of the executive branch of Russian Federation components shall with the participation of the relevant federal organs of executive power be instructed to formulate and ratify regional action plans and work programs in the course of 1994 for the territories involved with a view to implementing the basic guidelines of the Russian Federation state strategy to protect the environment and ensure steady development, thereby defining specific measures to be defrayed by the budgets of Russian Federation components, local budgets, and other sources of finance.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Note: The Russian Federation Government's action plan has not yet been implemented.

Economic Issues

Filatov: 'Economic Policy of Compromise' To Continue

LD1206095894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 12 TASS—"An economic policy of compromise pursued by the Russian Government which was commented upon by the leader of Russia's Choice movement, Yegor Gaydar at the opening of the Russia's Choice founding congress today, will be continued for some time until the situation in society stabilises," said Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov, who is a delegate to the congress.

"After the situation stabilizes, after regions give their full support, it will be possible to take more resolute and tough steps," he said. He pointed out that the course of resolving problems by the president's decrees will be continued.

In reply to a question asked by ITAR-TASS, Filatov pointed out that he is a delegate of the congress and was one of the party's organisers at the first stage of its creation. But it's too early to speak about membership in the party yet, since practically, it has not yet been created, he said.

According to Filatov, the president did not express his attitude to the newly created party on the eve of its founding congress.

Soskovets Pessimistic on Economy

LD1006143394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets told a conference in the Kremlin today that his vision of the state of the national economy was far from rosy.

He pointed to notable changes in the economic situation in Russia in the first months of this year, characterized by a further slump in production concomitant with the slow-down in the rate of growth of inflation, higher unemployment and demand constraints. No growth of accumulation was recorded in the use of the gross domestic product, and while the crediting and monetary policy grew tougher, tension increased in the financial state of enterprises. The amount of outstanding debts to suppliers kept growing in relation to the monetary resources on the accounts of industrial and construction enterprises and the non-payment crises showed no signs of abatement.

Soskovets stressed that the share of loss-making and idling enterprises in the industry as a whole kept growing, and the industrial production slump from January to May went 25 period [as received] deeper from the same period last year. The reduction in production was the deepest in the processing industry and consumer goods production.

Soskovets said the slump in production was no longer due to the severance of former economic ties but to demand constraints and structural factors, as well as to the shortage of money at the disposal of customers. "Stocks of manufactured goods are swelling, mass-scale production has to be stopped or curtailed at a large number of enterprises, which results in the reduction not only of effective but also of physical demand and in the accelerated spread of paralysis along technological chains," the vice-premier said.

Soskovets stressed however that far from all enterprises were in a crisis. Many of them has adapted to the new conditions of economic management, accumulated rouble and hard currency reserves, and are delaying remittances of resources to the accounts of their suppliers not because they lack money but because they seek additional profits.

The reduction in the volume of production continued in many regions of Russia, Soskovets said. Out of the 21 republics within the Russian Federation only Karelia, Komi, Kalmykia and Yakutia registered the reduction in output by less than 20 percent. The situation remains extremely complicated in the regions where processing industries and industries producing means of production prevail. These are the Central, Volga and Ural regions, and some parts of the northern, northwestern and eastern Siberian economic regions.

The pursuance of the policy of the macroeconomic stabilization has brought to light a number of problems which have been accumulating in the economy for a long time. One of the most serious among them is that reforms have not affected the technological structure of production: most enterprises have been unable to cut the cost of production, particularly in conditions of a tougher competition with foreign producers on the domestic market.

As concerns the social sphere, Oleg Soskovets said "certain positive shifts" have taken place there since the beginning of the year. Measures were taken to increase wages and monetary incomes and improve the provision of pensions. Along with this, the differentiation in society has continued to increase, and the situation on the labour market grew increasingly worrisome. Although formally the level of unemployment in the country remains quite low at 1.7 percent of the economically active population, "the dynamics of this process is growing".

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Banking System

LD1006192494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] On Friday Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on the banking system in Russia. The president's press service has issued the full text of the decree.

The decree states that the restrictions included in the first section of the presidential decree on banks of November 17, 1993 do not affect operations with Russian residents if these operations are specified in licences granted by the Russian Central Bank up to the issuing of the decree to foreign banks or banks with joint capital set up on Russian territory by banks from countries with which Russia has concluded agreements on investment encouragement and protection.

The president agreed with the suggestion of the Central Bank on granting licences to carry out banking operations to foreign and joint banks if foreign states grant Russian banks similar conditions in their activities abroad.

The president recommends that the Central Bank increase its supervision of the work of commercial banks, credit organizations and carries out thorough investigations of their activities no less than once every two years. The Central Bank has been given three months to work out and present to the government suggestions on developing consumer credit.

The Central Bank has also been charged with accelerating the pace of setting up a fund for protecting the money of citizens invested in Russian banks.

The decree stipulates that investments can be guaranteed by the state at the expense of this fund in cases set down in Russian law.

The president spoke in favor of adopting new banking laws to secure the mutual representation of the government and the Central Bank in order to carry out agreed measures on carrying out credit and monetary policy.

The decree also lays down that the Central Bank will take part in government sessions while the finance and economics minsters will take part in sessions of the Council of Directors of the Central Bank.

Laws and actions by organs of state power disrupting the unity of the system of the Central Bank are declared inadmissible. The document states that the Central Bank is a federal bank and according to the Russian Constitution its actions are regulated exclusively by federal organs of state power.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Grachev Says 300,000 Troops To Be Cut by Oct

LD1306095694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] The authorized strength of the Russian Armed Forces would be 1.9 million by 1 October 1994, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax.

At present, the authorized strength of the Russian Armed Forces is 2.2 million.

Grachev noted that it was not only the rank-and-file and officer corps which were to be cut—general officers were to be cut, too. He said that 270 generals' posts would be cut by the end of the year.

50 Percent of CIS Nuclear Missiles Dismantled

LD1006174894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] To date, 50 percent of all the tactical nuclear warheads brought to Russia from the territory of CIS countries in Central Asia, the Transcaucasus, Belarus, and Ukraine have been dismantled, our correspondent was told by Vitaliy Yakovlev, a Defense Ministry spokesman. Within the next few months Russia will begin measures to withdraw land-based and air-based strategic nuclear missiles from the territory of Kazakhstan. The compensation mechanism, he said, has still to be agreed. [indistinct passage omitted]

Smolensk Nuclear Plant Reportedly Undamaged After Flood

LD1206122794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our special correspondent Dmitriy Motrich reported over the phone from Smolensk today that a natural disaster had occurred last night in Smolensk Oblast, not far from the town of Roslavl, the site of the Smolensk nuclear power station. Torrential rains broke a dam, houses were flooded, and farms destroyed. The area has lost its electricity and communications lines. The number of victims is still unclear.

According to preliminary reports, the nuclear power station itself is unharmed. Our correspondents have already arrived at the site, and we will keep you posted.

Yeltsin To Decide on Possible Space Center in Far East

LD1106153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] When President Yeltsin travels to the Far East on June 14, he may take a decision to build a Russian space center at Svobodny 18, a town in the Amur region.

A spokesman for the Aero-Space Army Command disclosed to Interfax on Saturday that Yeltsin, scheduled to visit Kyzyl, Tuva (a republic within the Russian Federation) and Blagoveschensk (the Amur region), would also go to Svobodny 18 for an on the spot decision on the construction of a space center there.

He revealed that essential documents were currently being drafted at the government's request to explain the need for such a Far Eastern project.

At Svobodny 18, a town where a strategic missile division was once deployed, intensive work is underway to refurbish the facilities. Launch sites are being remodelled there for small aircraft of a Rokot type.

As the Aero-Space Force Commander Vladimir Ivanov has reported, the first Rokot is to be launched in 1996 from one of the five silos that has remained after the disbandment of the division in line with START.

Subsequently, a new complex is to be built at Svobodny 18 for an Angara-24 heavy booster, which will be superior to the currently used Proton rocket since it is less polluting and can launch heavier loads to orbit.

Cosmonauts Complete 5 Months Aboard Mir Space Complex

LD1006112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0923 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Mission Control Centre June 10 TASS—Russian cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev, and Valeriy Polyakov have spent five months on board the "Mir" complex.

They devoted primary attention to geophysical studies this week, which were carried out with the help of a multizonal MKF-6MA camera and videospectrometric equipment, installed on the "Kvant-2" module. Today, the cosmonauts are to make a regular series of photographs of the earth's surface. They will also carry out several experiments to determine the spectral characteristics of major oceanic currents and to further study the ionosphere and the earth's magnetosphere.

Astrophysical studies were carried out regularly in recent days with the use of the international "roentgen" orbital observatory. The telescopes were trained on the centre of our galaxy, at the roentgen pulsar, the power of whose radiation grew approximately 10-fold at the beginning of May.

Medical examinations show that the cosmonauts are in good health. The flight is proceeding normally.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council To Discuss Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict

LD1006161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Thursday President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree "On Participation of the Russian Federation in the Peacekeeping Operation in the Zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict".

As reports the presidential press service, issuance of this decree was caused by aggravation of the situation in the conflict zone, support of this peacekeeping operation on the part of CIS countries, and the request on the part of Georgian and Abkhazian leaders to urgently deploy peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone.

Yeltsin commissioned the government to ensure formation of an appropriate military contingent on the basis of the Russian units which have the status of peacekeeping forces by using the infrastructure of the Group of the Russian Forces in Transcaucases. The Russian contingent can be later on strengthened on the decision of the Federation Council of the RF Federal Assembly.

The decree is to go into effect since the moment of its signing, however, in accordance with the RF Constitution the Federation Council is to determine the time of the operation. The next sitting of the upper chamber has been scheduled for June 21, however, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the chamber, does not rule out that he would convene an extraordinary sitting to consider this issue. IF Note: The previous week the upper chamber of the Russian parliament declined Boris Yeltsin's request to approve introduction of Russian peacekeeping forces into the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict (with a majority of only one vote).

Meanwhile, on Thursday Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reported to Interfax in Yerevan that everything is ready for the introduction of peacekeeping forces into the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, "however, decision of politicians is needed to start the operation."

Shumeyko Statement Marks Independence Day

LD1206103994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Statement by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko marking Russia's Independence Day, on 11 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shumeyko] The declaration of the sovereignty of Russia was adopted four years ago, on 12 June 1990. All the deputies stood up and greeted this with long

applause. Probably not everyone thought then what sovereignty was about, what a free state was. The fact of the matter is that many deputies, almost the overwhelming majority at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, won the elections on denial, on the denial of the system that existed then, on the denial of the CPSU as the power in Russia, the power on which the whole Soviet Union was based. Appealing to their electorate, they said: We are fed up with all of this. We cannot live like this any longer. We cannot live any longer in this totalitarian state in which man, his spirit repressed, where none of us is free. The electorate agreed with them. They elected these deputies.

The time has come for reflection—if we are deputies of the Russian Federation—where is that Russia, what sort of a state is it? How should it be built and developed further? When the sovereignty of Russia was declared the Soviet Union was in existence. There was the center. There was the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. There was Gorbachev, the general secretary who announced perestroyka, acceleration, the building of socialism with a human face. That classic phrase, the process has got under way [as heard] belongs to him. Where has it "got under way" to?

All of that so-called perestroyka in my view was characterized by a whole series of economic crimes, which essentially led to the complete failure of the socialist economy, of an economy that was formed way back during Stalinist five-year plans, an economy that was then supported by everyone. But out of all the decisions that were made, I recall one hazy fact—we woke up one morning and we were told: We will form cooperatives and that is it—there will be happiness.

Students will work there, the unemployed section of the population, pensioners—they will produce so much from remnants and scraps resulting from productive processes that our store shelves will be cracking under the weight of goods. How wonderful cooperatives are, they kept saying.

Then we woke up one beautiful morning to hear: No to cooperatives, cooperatives are bad, they should be banned and destroyed.

Then they allowed cooperatives to turn non-cash into cash. Only now have I discovered that in that period, during eight months of 1988, 600 billion rubles were converted from non-cash into cash. That is 600 billion of those rubles. In today's money it is 600 trillion. All goods disappeared. By the end of 1990 they just disappeared—all—remember empty shelves in Moscow! The market of goods disappeared. One could return it only by freeing prices. But we did not know it then! Nobody knew how the economy would develop.

The sovereign and free Russia became the heir to the Soviet Union at the exact moment when the socialist economy was finished for good—when there were empty shelves, barter relations, and so on. First we were fighting to separate ourselves from the center and to prove that Russia is independent and sovereign—and we proved it. However, this sovereign independent state was left with all the problems accumulated by the previous leadership. This old leadership dumped them, as it were, on the new leadership.

Now there is an interesting fact—there are claims that it is Yeltsin and the Gaydar government that are to blame for everything, and for breaking apart this powerful great Soviet Union. Now nobody remembers, even for a minute, that the shelves were empty, that there were huge lines, that Valentin Pavlov changed money, and so on. All these brawls are forgotten, and now there are new difficulties.

June 12 is a holiday despite everything, a great holiday. Why? Because it is from that day that we started building the new Russia. Not even new, to be exact. It is impossible to build Russia from scratch. Russia is a universe, a huge state, which at some point of its development turned into an empire from sea to sea. On its way, Russia absorbed new peoples, cultures, confessions and traditions. It turned into a multi-ethnic multi-million state.

It remains the same today. But today it is no longer a single state, it is not under the authority of the csar or the general secretary—csar or center, it is all the same. Today, at last, Russia is free in the respect that it is a federal state. Thanks to Russia becoming a sovereign state, a federal state, it has been preserved as a single state and has not disintegrated. But today everybody should be thinking about how to preserve, how to strengthen, how to consolidate the state, in the first place. It would be better if we learned to think: First of all, we are citizens of Russia and then politicians, because today many decisions are taken to gratify immediate political aims, to please a political group, party or faction, and so on and so forth. But people lead quite different lives—not at all like politicians. They want the state to be powerful and strong, to allow man to live alright, to earn as much money as he can, to provide for his family.

We are building a law-governed state where law is the cornerstone. No matter what is said, nonetheless, the Constitution was adopted on 12 December 1993. This Constitution contains all the achievements of socialism in the social respect. As for spiritual values—they are enshrined in it—free education, health care, the possibility to live as a human being in that society. For the first time human rights have been secured. The Constitution has started to operate directly. If the Constitution is violated, a person has the right to go to court. But all of that still has to be built. The Constitution's operation must be ensured. Society is still living by other laws and nobody goes to court when his rights are violated.

The first stage of democratic transformations and the construction of a law-governed state began on 12 June 1990 when sovereignty was declared. The second stage of our life began on 12 December 1993 when the new Constitution was adopted.

These two stages were completely different. The first stage was the romantic transition to democracy, when everything seemed quick, everything seemed possible. It seemed that there would be mutual understanding between everyone. But then colossal economic difficulties set in, every day, ordinary life began. Then it was no longer good enough to make speeches, call people out on the streets, hold rallies, it was time to work. Every day.

Over these four years, it was my fortune to be a deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet and first deputy prime minister of the government. I now lead the Federation Council. How should those in power today be described?

I would put it like this. Today they are concerned about the state to a greater degree. In the past, the authorities were more concerned about staying in power. There was also a stage when it seemed to the Moscow authorities, the people here, that they were actually the only authority in Russia. It seemed that Moscow could take decisions for the whole of Russia. That was a great mistake. They failed to appreciate that the regional authorities were just as, or even more powerful.

Ask me when I had the greatest power and I can tell you that it was when I was a director general. I had 13,000 staff and I had full authority over all the issues at my industrial association.

Now, despite the lofty post, I have a lot less real power. Perhaps it is of a different sort, manifesting itself in a different way? The Federation Council, which represents the subjects of the Federation, is the essence of that authority of the regions, which is really the authority of Russia, that power which is being wielded among people every day. Those in power now are basically characterized by their awareness that things are done, not at the center, not in Moscow, but in consultation with everyone, all over Russia. The greater this awareness, the better for Russia. Those in power need to understand that the more you give the more you receive.

Shumeyko Chairs Conference With Regional Leaders

Center-Regional Balance Must Avoid 'Extremes'

PM1306101194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 1

[Petr Karapetyan report: "Vladimir Shumeyko Advocated Increased Spending on Army. Conference with Leaders of Organs of Representative Power of Components of Russian Federation Held in Federation Council"]

[Text] The main areas of cooperation between the upper chamber of the Federal Assembly and the components of the Russian Federation in such areas as economic reform, the strengthening of federalism, and the elaboration of nationalities policy and a new regional strategy were discussed at the conference.

Participating in the conference were Vladimir Shumeyko, Ivan Rybkin, leaders of committees and commissions of the Federation Council and the State Duma, vice premiers of the government, ministers, representatives of the president's staff and the Central Electoral Commission, leaders of all-Russian and interregional unions and associations, and scientists. Following the discussion and the adoption of the final document, the Coordinating Council for Cooperation Between the Chambers of the Federal Assembly and Organs of Representative Power of the Components of the Russian Federation was elected.

Vladimir Shumeyko pointed out at the conference that the process of political stabilization is growing in Russia and is based on the Constitution, the strengthening of the organs of representative power, and the Treaty on Civil Peace and Accord signed by the country's main political forces. At the same time, Shumeyko emphasized, two extremes can be ruinous to Russia: Both overestimation of the significance of the regions' autonomy and underestimation of the role of the center. "The actual political decision that can be made today," the chairman of the Federation Council emphasized, "is the adoption of the budget." It is his firm conviction that the budget must determine policy in the state. Vladimir Shumeyko once again advocated increasing expenditure on the Army and the military-industrial complex.

Comments on Regional Interests, Budget

LD1106211294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Interview with Russian Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko by INTERFAX observer Dmitriy Voskoboynikov; place and date not given; from the "Novosti-Plyus" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Voskoboynikov] [Passage omitted: Dmitriy Voskoboynikov recaps recent developments related to Russia's regional policy: Yeltsin's visit to Tatarstan; Yuriy Skokov's meeting with presidents of Chuvashia, Tatarstan, and Bashkortostan in Cheboksary; election of another State Duma deputy speaker]

In the final analysis, even the conflict between the State Duma and the Federation Council over the budget arose, I believe, from differing attitudes to the interests of the regions. Little wonder, really, since there is no unity at the top in attitudes to the provinces. An increasing number of analysts note that the role of a man capable of defining a common denominator could be played by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko. This week he held a major conference with leaders of representative bodies of authority from numerous regions of Russia.

[Shumeyko] There are classic features of a federation. First, it is a state made up of independent regions. Second, each independent part of a federal state has its own legislation. Finally, following the adoption on 12 December 1993 of the Constitution, we have the last

classic feature: A federal state has a bicameral parliament, with one chamber directly protecting the interests of the regions. Therefore, what I have read in the papers of late, claims that Shumeyko is preoccupied with something, with some sort of presidential elections, and so he has become involved and has organized a party of the regions—this is all completely groundless.

[Voskoboynikov] If we were to single out the most serious problem in relations between the center and the regions, what would you say it was?

[Shumeyko] The most important one is probably the budget. A budget is necessarily political. It manifests the policy of the state. This is the purpose of a budget. It is not a sum of arithmetical operations. The arguments we often hear about the budget nowadays concentrate on figures. But the important thing is not the figures. For instance, everyone says that the Federation Council and Shumeyko want to ingratiate themselves with the military, and that is why they insist on these figures. But that is not the point. The point is that for 33 regions, the defense sector forms the basis of their industry. The same defense industry into which all the potential of the former Soviet Union used to be directed.

Whatever we say, the State Duma reflects the political structure of the state. Half of its deputies were elected on party tickets. They adopted the budget on the basis of consensus. The faction leaders got together and reached political consensus. But thank God, or maybe unfortunately, parties nowadays in no way reflect the interests of the population of Russia. We have a population of 150 millions, while the largest party, the Communist Party, has about 300,000 members. Regions, on the other hand, reflect the real state of affairs in Russia. [passage omitted]

Duma Releases Statement on Budget

LD1006183894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] We have just received the text of a statement issued by the State Duma stressing the groundless nature of criticism of the country's budget adopted in the second reading on 8 June. The statement notes that even in accordance with the initial draft, 20 percent of all budget expenditure was allocated for military needs. Moreover, when the budget was passing through the second reading it became possible to allocate an additional 3.5 billion rubles. Sources outside the budget to finance defense needs were determined, and Duma experts estimate that these will amount to another several trillion rubles.

The statement acknowledges that the budget, which reflects the actual state of the Russian econony, is extremely tight. But, the statement says, the deputies are convinced that parliament, and society, through parliament, have to place the use of taxpayers' money under strict supervision.

Yavlinskiy Fears Confrontation Over Budget

LD1206140794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0525 GMT 11 June carries a seven-minute interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the leader of the Yabloko faction in the Russian State Duma. The program was recorded 10 June. Reception is good.

Yavlinskiy is speaking with an unidentified correspondent in the lobby of the Duma. He begins by summing up the budget debate in the State Duma. Yavlinskiy then asserts that the Russian parliament was not properly equipped to debate the matter properly. He says that "the Duma was not sufficiently prepared to debate each budget amendment individually. This is linked with the fact that neither the Duma nor, in my opinion, any of the other representative bodies are in any way ready to tackle the budget question as such. We lack a control chamber, a real budget control committee. Strictly speaking, there is no one in Russia's representative bodies independently analyzing the budget in detail. This is a serious problem, as the budget contains the money of every citizen of this country of ours. Under proper conditions, there is always control over how a government uses the money entrusted to it."

After outlining his faction's proposais to amend the budget, noting that 73 percent of these proposals were adopted, Yavlinskiy stresses the incompetence of the Duma to tackle the budget. He then responds to a question on the political battles in the budget debate.

Yavlinskiy replies: "From our point of view, this budget does not mirror the priorities we need to get the country out of crisis. We have consistently said that a budget like this is not worthy of the country. It does not expand reform, it does not make life any easier for people, it puts up taxes, and does not address our pressing problems. Moreover, it lacks any priorities whatsoever. That was our stance on the budget as a whole. so we decided that such a budget should not be passed."

Yavlinskiy then turns his attention to the military budget and the failed attempt to increase it by 18 trillion rubles. He portrays this as an attempt to destabilize the Russian political situation. He says: "As for the 18 trillion, then an amendment to the budget on that scale should be decided by the president as the supreme commander in chief. It happened that neither the government nor the president wanted to make such an amendment. Strictly speaking, what were the grounds for allowing this question to become a topic for debate? I don't think that an individual deputy can make an amendment on that scale when the budget is in the process of being adopted.

"The time up through 10 June has been used to create an atmosphere of confrontation. This is a policy we are familiar with. We have already gone through one tragedy in connection with this policy and it is unfolding again as follows.

"There was—and there remains—a problem linked to funding defense and the defense industry. The Duma debated the matter. Neither the president nor the government had any amendments to make on the matter in question. We took the decision we were able to take within the limits of the revenue and expenditure approved. Then, out of the blue, it was said that the upper chamber was principally opposed to the Duma's decision, that it was accusing it of some sort of non-statesman-like behavior's, and that it was possible that events might so develop that the president would address the upper chamber to say that the Duma was not up to its job and that the real champions of the people's happiness were in the upper chamber.

"I want to emphasize that this confrontational situation has been created absolutely artificially. The political situation has been aggravated for no good reason. It is hard to explain why then, for instance, Mr. Rybkin and Mr. Shumeyko signed such a grand treaty on accord if the impression is given that they are constantly looking for a pretext to create a new enemy.

"As for the president, he has still to make his position clear on this issue. The last thing I want to see and the thing that worries me most is that this whole situation being might be used to whip up a gigantic confrontation, between the chambers of the Federal Assembly, and then with the president taking the side of one of the chambers. That's the most unpleasant aspect of this affair."

Duma Adopts Draft Oil, Gas Law

LD1006191494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Russia's State Duma (lower chamber of parliament) has adopted the draft law on oil and gas (by one vote difference), removing from it a provision on the exclusive right of the central authorities to "dictate the terms" for prospecting, exploration and the actual production of oil and gas, their transportation and storage.

Interfax was informed by the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry that some of the department's functions would now be transferred to local authorities.

Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told Interfax that the removal of those articles from the draft had been another necessary compromise. He said that during a year and a half of revision, much had been lost from its content in the search for compromises.

However, he said he was happy that the draft law had been adopted at its first reading. Without such a document, he said, the government would find it very difficult to exercise control over the holders of licenses for oil and gas production.

The president, government and constituent members of the Russian Federation, parliamentary committees and fractions must, by 24 June, submit their comments to prepare for the draft law's second reading before 1 July.

Duma Adopts Resolution on Local Self-Government

LD1006223094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jun—The State Duma today adopted a resolution "On Including the Constitutional Rights of the Population to Self-government in the Normative Legal Acts of the Subjects of the Russian Federation." It draws the Russian Federation president's attention in particular to the need to adopt a series of measures to prevent violation of the population's constitutional rights to local self-government and measures to implement the constitutional rights of the population to ownership, use and charge of municipal property. It also draws attention to the rights of the bodies of local self-government to set up and implement local budgets independently. The resolution says the bodies of state power among the subjects of the Russian Federation must implement the clauses in the Constitution on elections to the bodies of local self-government and not allow the practice of postponing elections or of appointing the head of local self-government.

Draft Law on Lobby Activity Pending

MK1106090194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov INTERFAX-based report in the "Legislation" column: "Yet Another Profession Will Appear in Russia. Lobbyists Will Be Registered by the Ministry of Justice"]

[Text] It is quite likely that this fall domestic legislation will be supplemented by an enactment regulating lobbying activity in Russia. At least, on the decision of the State Duma Council, the bill "On Regulating Lobbying Activity of Federal Bodies of State Power" has been sent to parliament committees for finalization.

Under the draft, lobbying is understood as activity by "corporate entities or individuals with respect to federal bodies of state power aimed at influencing the latter in exercising their powers as stipulated by the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation." It defines, among others, the following forms and methods of lobbying: presentation of draft laws, edicts, orders, and other enactments to federal bodies of state power drafted by a lobbying person or group of persons, as well as expert assessment of these documents.

The bill specifies that "parliament deputies, elected officials of the Russian Federation or its components, as well as bodies and officials from the executive or judicial branches may not act" as lobbyists. True, parliamentarians, ministers, judges, and others of that ilk may try themselves in the lobbying domain but not until at least a year after they have left their posts.

Each person acting as a lobbyist must register with the Russian Federation Justice Ministry. The lobbyist is obligated to send an official report in writing about his activity to the same body no later than 20 days after the end of each calendar half-year. Income received by the lobbyist is taxed according to the laws currently in force.

Regional Affairs

Groznyy Denies Dudayev Undermined Talks

LD1206162194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Groznyy, 12 June (CHECHENPRESS-TASS)—The Chechen Ministry of Foreign Affairs has refuted accusations that president Dzhokhar Dudayev was responsible for the collapse of the talks with Russia. In a statement issued today by CHECHENPRESS, the Foreign Ministry of Chechnya says that "Groznyy has never received any proposals or documents from the Russian leadership for the forthcoming talks," and therefore the Chechen leadership "strongly refutes the accusations that it has undermined the allegedly planned talks." The document also states that "the Chechen Republic is willing to start talks with the Russian Federation only on the principles of equality, with no preconditions, and only if Russia abandons the policy of state terrorism."

The CHECHENPRESS report says that the Chechen Foreign Ministry has been provoked to issue the statement because "Russian mass media has published reports in which officials from the administration of the Russian President and from the Ministry for Nationalities and Regional Policy are blaming Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of Chechnya, for the collapse of the allegedly planned talks between the Chechen Republic and the Russian Federation."

Dudayev Loyalists, 'Niiso' Party Members Exchange Fire

LD1206165594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] There was an intensive exchange of fire in the Chechen capital city of Groznyy in the early hours of Sunday. Unofficial sources have told Interfax that during the curfew hours order forces arrested a gunmen of the armed unit loyal to the "Niiso" (Justice) Party, Ruslan Labazanov. There are no reports so far about casualties.

The commandant of the Chechen Republic, Sultan Geliskhanov confirmed to Interfax that some people were arrested for the violation of the curfew and armed resistance.

The detained Labazanov provided no concrete explanations either, but said that there the party supporters in the city.

Earlier, the Chechen commandant had issued an order that illegal armed forces should surrender arms and asked their leaders to report for the republic's commandant's office. At of 6:00 P.M., Moscow time, on June 12, the situation in Groznyy was calm.

Fighting Continues

LD1306102294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] INTERFAX has reported today that fighting between President Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters and the opposition is continuing for the second day in Groznyy, the capital of Chechnya. Troops loyal to the president are fighting an opposition armed formation under the command of Ruslan Labazanov. The INTERFAX correspondent reports that armor is being used in the armed clashes. INTERFAX has been told at opposition headquarters that there are many civilian casualties. They also clarified that the armed clashes are talking place in one of the areas of Groznyy. They were preceded by a rally staged by Labazanov in a square in Groznyy on Saturday [11 June], where he demanded the resignation of President Dudayev.

Ossetian Leader Calls for High-Level Peace Talks

LD1006162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz June 10 TASS—On his return from Moscow, Akhsarbek Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia, informed today members of the Presidium of the government of the republic of his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on June 9.

According to Akhsarbek Galazov, "the meeting was fruitful. I told the Russian president about the situation in the zone under the state of emergency regime, and the concrete steps being made by the leadership of North Ossetia on the settlement of the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. The road to peace and accord in the region lies only through negotiations, and these goals cannot be achieved by forcible methods."

North Ossetian leaders also discussed issues connected with the celebration of the 220th anniversary of Ossetia joining Russia and the 210th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Vladikavkaz.

The president of North Ossetia proposed within the framework of these celebrations to organize in Vladikavkaz a meeting of all leaders of the Caucasian region with the participation of the president of the Russian Federation and the head of the Russian government during which it would be possible to consider socio-political, economic and inter-ethnic problems, as well as the roads to peace and accord in the region.

During his talks with President Boris Yeltsin, Akhsarbek Galazov stressed, the two sides also touched on the problem of signing a full-scale treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of North Ossetia. This would give the possibility to settle social and economic problems of North Ossetia more purposively.

Two Peacekeepers Killed in Ingushetia

LD1306091894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Two Russian servicemen were killed in Malgobek in the Ingush Republic on 12 June. They were members of the peacekeeping forces deployed in the state of emergency area.

The two were killed at midday in the town's market place, in front of witnesses. Vadim Moyseyev, major in the interior service, died from two shots in the back. Militia sergeant Danie Baydashev sustained seven bullet wounds.

The killers escaped from the scene of the crime in a motor vehicle. However, their identity has been established through the efforts of the investigation group from the Russian Interior Ministry and Ingushetia's Interior Ministry and Procuracy. The search for the criminals is under way, RIA reports.

Komi Republic's New Head Interviewed

PM1006142594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jun 94 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Yuriy Spiridonov, president of Komi Republic, by ITAR-TASS political observer Gennadiy Bocharov; in Syktyvkar 8 June: "I Do Not Intend To Make a Revolution"]

[Text] Yuriy Spiridonov granted an interview 8 June, the day after the inauguration of the first president in the history of the Komi Republic.

[Bocharov] You are the first president of the Komi Republic....

[Spiridonov] Head of the republic. I believe that there must be one president in Russia. There is.

[Bocharov] Good. Today is the first day after your official inauguration. Which concern of this day—as of the 100th day, which is traditional for summing up the first results—will be the chief and most important concern for you?

[Spiridonov] Both today and on the 100th day, and maybe also on the 200th, the budget will constitute this concern. Although, in connection with the Russian president's recent edicts, maybe the situation will yet improve. I very much hope so.

[Bocharov] How many days out of the first 100 will you spend in this office, and how many traveling around the republic?

[Spiridonov] The first three days. The rest traveling around the republic. In parallel I will be forming the government. I do not intend to make a revolution, but serious changes are needed.

[Bocharov] Personal or structural?

[Spiridonov] Mostly structural. The aim is to combat the omnipotence of officials. Our chief enemy, as well as the enemy of all Russia, is the petty official and the big official. The most brilliant projects and undertakings are ruined precisely at the level of the official. A Mariya Ivanovna or a Vasiliy Petrovich, unknown to anyone, possess a power which is frequently out of all relation to that of a minister or even the president.

[Bocharov] Komi is known to be a veritable storehouse of natural riches. In this connection Syktyvkar is constantly being visited by representatives of very serious and world-renowned firms and corporations. By which criteria do you intend to be guided in your approach to cooperation with the West in this sense?

[Spiridonov] There is one criterion: the good of the cause. For the republic and its people. We will rely on the great experience of the federal structures. We will also support our own structures in every way.

The republic's foreign economic activity is growing daily. A lot of mistakes are being made and criminal actions being committed. But a positive process is already evident. The task is clear in this sense too. The republic's enterprises must work. Production must grow, not fall. People must earn well. We have no reason to fear joint projects or, to put it more simply, access for businessmen to our expanses and our riches. Here is an interesting thing. Back in 1928, in one of the rayons of Komi, the raykom [rayon party committee] bureau examined the question of allowing the raykom secretary's son to head a British concession. At that time people were not afraid of these words, but today we continue to fear these words, such as the word "concession."

I wish to say that we are ready to deal not only with recognized authorities in the West but also with our own businessmen with capital. There is no need to blush and hide our eyes. Money must work. This is a principled approach. It is irrational to waste efforts on a debate over the nature of the accumulation of primary capital, unless, of course, it is a question of obvious piracy. I repeat once more: Money must work, enterprises must build up capacity, and people must earn well. Today we cannot allow a negligent or frequently simply even a foolish leader of one enterprise or another to go on taking a freeloading approach to the budget and to state funds and to demand that they be taken from invalids, children, and pensioners instead of introducing these funds into the state's budget.

[Bocharov] The election showed perfectly clearly the level of your authority in the republic. In what way do you intend to maintain it?

[Long silence]

[Spiridonov] If it has to be done artifically, then in no way....

Implications of Komi Independence Viewed

PM1006112394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by own correspondent T. Borisevich: "Yesterday an Autonomous Body—Today a State"]

[Text] Republic of Komi—In Syktyvkar Yuriy Spiridonov, who won the election of the head of the Republic of Komi, has assumed office. The day before a Supreme Council session adopted laws on the state emblem, the state flag, and the state anthem of the Republic of Komi. The Constitution was adopted slightly earlier.

It thus has all the attributes of its own statehood. From slogans and declarations sovereignty has traveled the path to more real symbols.

Yesterday autonomy—today the state.

In his greetings telegram Boris Yeltsin called the republic one of the most authoritative components of Russian statehood. The president put a lot into this admission: The authority of Yuriy Spiridonov, the republic's new head, the fact that the republic was one of the first to suggest its own version of the Federation Treaty, and the fact that it struggled to the end for its inclusion in the new Russian Constitution.

Unfortunately, not everything is successful. Sovereignty is still considerably truncated. Both by the legislators and by life. Today in the national republic the people who gave it its name are in the minority. Komi's villages are dying because they are the provincial and national hinterland. In previous "allocation" years the republic was given at least something. Now it has been deprived even of those crumbs. Its own production does not feed it. It runs at a loss in the North. Consumer services are no longer subsidised. That means that the village dweller cannot get a haircut, get a television repaired, or get a dress sewn. But even that is not a misfortune. They trim each other's hair and continue to wear old dresses instead of new ones.

The trouble lies elsewhere. Children from the hinterland no longer get into the institutes and it is not only studying in the city but even getting there that is a problem. Even professional schools have become unattainable. There is no longer the influx of young specialists to the hinterland. And without them there will soon be no one to give people medical treatment and teach children even in the national school. That means the mortality rate will rise and the educational standard will decline. And all this will affect primarily the indigenous inhabitants. So, for small peoples like the Komi their own statehood (even if it is simply declared) is nonetheless a blessing.

Where apart from its own state will the Komi language receive the status of a state language? Where else would they have managed to develop and introduce at state level with financing from the budget programs for development of the Komi language and national culture, to open a Komi philology faculty, and publish books, journals, and newspapers in the Komi language?

For an example I shall just cite part of the budget items for this year: The publication of national literature, expenditure on the production of the "Parma-Yel" newsreels, expenditure on the implementation of the law "On the State Languages of the Republic of Komi" and "The Conservation and Development of the Komi Language."

But that is one side of the "state" coin. To build—a house or a state—you need money. Money is a yardstick of true autonomy, independence, and freedom. And a state is only a state when it controls money circulation, taxes, and the economy. But what can we talk of if, for instance, the republic does not even have the funds even to pay people their leave pay. For the social sphere alone 71 billion rubles are needed for the purpose, with 42 billion being needed for national education. That means they have to go cap in hand to the center and ask for a loan. That is where its own independence ends.

However many serious entrepreneurs visit Komi not one of them has refrained from asking: Why, when it has stocks of oil, coal, gas, titanium ore, and timber, is the republic unable to secure a fitting life for its citizens? The answer to this question is on the surface. The bulk of revenue goes into the Federal Budget. So the national republic's economic autonomy is impossible in principle. Moreover, the republic's minister of finances and the tax chief get their wages in Moscow. And that says a lot. Here the center speaks the same taxation and investment language with all components of the Federation while the North is quite different from the South and that means the language should be different.

Today a 700-gramme loaf of bread in Ust-Tsilma (a Komi rayon center) costs 1,354 rubles. Because everything, from grain to sugar, has to be imported. There are families where bread has become a treat and the main food is potatoes, which thankfully still grow in the North. In previous years they would at least sometimes issue child benefit. This year not a kopek has been received for this item from the Federal Budget. This financial and legislative dependence of the region on the center weakens not only the sovereign republic but also the center.

Boris Yeltsin once signed a package of documents on the economic and social development of the Republic of Komi. They were the precursor to the Federation's civilized economic cooperation with one of its components. But they did not succeed. The documents are not working. The proposals of the components of the federation to move from the fiscal tax system to fixed payments into the Russian budget are being ignored. In this

situation the territories have started to unite on regional lines, creating associations like the "Northwest," "Great Volga" and others.

The election of their own presidents and republic heads in yesterday's autonomous bodies is from the same "series." As a result, Russia today outstrips Europe in terms of the number of presidents. The Republic of Komi is one of the most recent to take this step. This will undoubtedly strengthen its statehood. But Russian statehood?

Dagestan Adopts New Constitution

LD1106193094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhi Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala June 11 TASS—The parliament of Dagestan, a republic in southern Russia, adopted a new Constitution at an emergency session on Saturday.

The new Constitution provides for a 120-member one-house legislature, a State Council—supreme body of executive power—consisting of 14 people, one from each of 14 ethnic groups inhabiting the republic, a government accountable to the State Council, and a Constitutional Assembly, half of which will consist of parliament deputies and the other half of representatives of local councils.

The Constitutional Assembly will have the right to elect members of the State Council and adopt amendments to the Constitution.

Counterintelligence Chief Flies to Far East

LD1306102594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 13 TASS—Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCIS) Sergey Stepashin flew to the Far East this Monday on a working trip, during which he will visit Vladivostok, Nakhodka and the Kurile Islands.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the FCIS that the director will meet population in the Far East, counterintelligence officers and will study the situation to map out measures to cut crime in the region and to realise the comprehensive crime-control programme.

Explosion Reported at Moscow Power Station

LD1206114594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] There was an explosion at an electric power sub-station at 7a Osipenko Street in Moscow today. The State Committee for Emergency Situations has told us that the cause of the accident is not yet known. The fire caused by the explosion has been localized.

International Affairs

Vietnamese Prime Minister Ends Official Visit

LD1006163994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, today completed his official visit to Ukraine. During the visit he met Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. The head of the Vietnamese Government also met Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy and Oleksandr Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

A package of Ukrainian-Vietnamese agreements have been signed, in particular, a consular convention and intergovernmental agreements on attracting and protecting investments. A treaty on the principles of relations and cooperation between Ukraine and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has been initialled.

The Vietnamese prime minister expressed the conviction that the arrival of the Vietnamese delegation in Kiev and the negotiations will initiate a new, important stage of cooperation on a direct interstate basis.

Kravchuk Discusses Black Sea Fleet, Russian Relations

LD1106144694

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1020 GMT on 11 June broadcasts a 40-minute recording of a meeting between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Russian media correspondents.

Kravchuk opens the meeting with a brief speech, thanking the correspondents for attending. Kravchuk then answers a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA question about a possible joint ownership of Crimea by Russia and Ukraine. Kravchuk replies:

"This idea should be put forward by the party that wants it. If, for instance, the Crimea wants it, then it is not for us to tell the Crimea, look, we are going to own you on a joint basis. But there have been no such statements or intentions on the part of past or present Crimean leaders. The Crimean leaders have only expressed one opinion to date: First, they want to be granted a statehood as a transitional stage and then, to become part of Russia. This is a program, a goal of the party that is currently in the majority in the parliament. The Crimean president has the same program. All this time, especially lately, they have been distancing themselves from Ukraine in all possible ways except in the economic sphere, because they are fully aware Crimea is 93 percent dependent on Ukraine."

He says the idea of a joint Russian-Ukrainian ownership of Crimea would be difficult to put into practice:

"If the question of equal cultural, political, religious, ethnic, and other conditions for Russians and Ukrainians in the Crimea is raised, you will see at once that this problem cannot be resolved. This joint ownership will mean that 95 percent will be de facto owned by Russia and 5 percent, de jure, by Ukraine."

Asked what way out he could propose, he said: "There is only one way out—that the Crimean authorities should act in conformity with the Constitution, that's all."

At 1034 GMT a LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent asks Kravchuk if it could be guaranteed that he will refrain from the use of force in settling the Crimean issue. Kravchuk answers:

"I can tell you with full certainty that under no circumstances will the leadership of Ukraine and I as its president use forcible methods in resolving the Crimean issue. I have said this at a Supreme Council session for all our people to hear, because we realize that however much this might hurt everyone, it would mean first and foremost a tragedy to us, and it is our people who would suffer most. I have accordingly called on the Crimean leadership to follow the same principle." He says the Moldova-Dniester region situation should not be allowed to evolve between Ukraine and Crimea and warned against any provocations, be it by Russian or Ukrainian forces, with regard to the Crimea.

Halfway through the program a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent asks whether Russia and Ukraine would be able to reach an agreement on the Black Sea Fleet. Kravchuk says:

"Today the only issue is where the fleet will be stationed. The infrastructure, all land-based economy of the Navy and so on come later. What is the Russian stance today? That Ukraine must have one base in the Crimea, in Donuzlav. Everything else in the Crimea should belong to the Russian Black Sea Fleet—not only Sevastopol. Sevastopol alone is 150 km. So, my question is: Is it that Sevastopol is the base of the Russian Navy or is it that the Russian Navy's base is in Sevastopol? This is not just an editorial change. If it is Sevastopol, this means 150 km. If the Russian Navy also takes hold of Feodosia, Kerch, they even have Yalta on the list—one does not know why, it is not a military facility...(pauses) I will then ask a practical question I keep raising with the authorities, including Russian authorities. It so happens that 85 percent of all the infrastructure of the Black Sea Fleet of the former Soviet Union—I quote the figure from memory, so I may be wrong—is concentrated in Sevastopol. All or most officers and junior ranks of the fleet live in Sevastopol. So, today Ukraine receives its 174 ships, let us say, and they tell us: move 160 km away from Sevastopol. We need—just for these ships—2,500 officers and junior ranks. They live in Sevastopol, however. Are they prepared to move?"

He goes on to say that he understands Russia's interests in the Black Sea:

"Russia is interested in having its Navy in the Black Sea. It does not have any other options right now. It is the south frontier, interests must be protected and so on. I understand it, we are not children here. Russia uses other bases on the basis of a contract with Ukraine, through agreements. That's it. But one should accept that these are Ukraine's bases."

He concludes by saying that the agreement should be reached following international principals:

"There should be a lease agreement for Russia's main base in Sevastopol. This is a norm—that is what other countries do, so we have not invented anything here. All other bases, which are there—the Russian Navy needs them—all these bases should be used by Russia through separate agreements."

As he closes his meeting with the Russian correspondents, Kravchuk asks the journalists to help build relations between Russia and Ukraine with long-term prospects in mind.

"We are living for today. Sometimes our relations are determined by mercenary considerations, by feelings such as we shall show them, we shall cut them off, we are not going to pay, they are bad because they want to be independent. This is not like us. For 340 years, we have not fought against one another. And today, when the question is asked if there will be war between Russia and Ukraine, I answer without hesitation: no, there won't be. This is like the Lord's Prayer to me. No, I say, this is simply inadmissible. If we fail to realize now that we have reached the point where our future, our children and grandchildren might be at risk—that will be the most frightening thing imaginable."

Kiev Claims Progress at Fleet Talks

LD1106140394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The press service of Ukraine's president and government has reported that another round of talks between the government delegations of Ukraine and Russia concluded in Kiev, having made considerable progress in drawing up an agreement on the first stage of settling the Black Sea Fleet issue. Yuriy Dubinin, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry ambassador-at-large and head of the Russian delegation, is of the opinion that the meeting held was characterized by greater mutual understanding and even the desire sometimes to reach a compromise in order to resolve the extremely complex problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

The sides agreed on a list of the amphibious means that are subject to division, as well as the off-shore and shore infrastructure items that associated with them as well as social sphere facilities.

Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and head of the Ukrainian delegation, underlined that a decision on the Black Sea Fleet could only be taken in a package of accords which would be approved by both heads of state.

Shmarov Outlines Main Problems

LD1106152794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Mykola Marynenko has asked Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov, head of the delegation [of Ukraine at the Russian-Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet talks], to comment on the Ukrainian side's position.

[Begin recording] [Marynenko] Esteemed Valeriy Mykolayovych, talking about the Black Sea Fleet, you will probably agree with me that this problem conventionally, as it were, falls into two categories: Strictly speaking, these are the ships and the infrastructure. This, at any rate, is how the mass media have lately been reporting on all those problems associated, I would like to underline, with the Black Sea Fleet. But, once again, I have analyzed reports by the mass media, you know, and have (somehow) come to the conclusion that the issue of the ships also conventionally falls into two categories: While earlier we spoke of the ships as having already been divided, we now say that ships have already been counted, with so many to belong to Russia and so many to belong to Ukraine after the division of the Black Sea Fleet. I would like you to clarify the situation with regard to the above problem, please.

[Shmarov] I think there are somewhat more problems than those enumerated by you. [passage indistinct]

I would like to return for a while to the origins of this issue and recall that the negotiations have been held since 15 April when the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an agreement on this issue, where it was noted that the navies should be separated within (quite) a short time. [passage omitted]

As for the problems, problem number one is, (undoubtedly), the amphibious means, or ships.

Problem number two is, certainly, the infrastructure that you mentioned, i.e. the (fleet's) shore infrastructure and everything that is land-based, in this particular case, on the territory of Crimea, with all the Black Sea Fleet's property being considered such as the land-based airfields, communications and combined-arms units, marines, and machinery that belongs to these arms of service. This is a very large number of complex facilities.

The third problem, I would say, is—now, in addition to what you named—the problem of the (status of) bases, i.e. the problem of bases and (the status) of bases. [passage indistinct]

The fourth problem, I would say, is the problem of the people who are now serving on board ships and in (inland) facilities. They are today provisionally subordinate to the two presidents, i.e. (subordinate) to two states

and (are within) two states. Today, however, their living conditions are more or less (stationary), stable, while what we are proposing they do tomorrow is something else, which again is quite a problem. [passage indistinct]

As for broad coverage of this and large-scale (advertisements) of our achievements, we agreed with the Russian delegation not to make any general statements and not to provide information for the general public, because what we have done by now concerns people and today, when we have not finished yet and have no final decision signed by the presidents, [to provide that information] would be (like jumping the gun). So until then, no doubt, we have no right to cause anxiety among the people. [passage indistinct]

I can say, however, that, indeed, we have already carried out the final division of the fleet. I mean the final division, rather than making a list. We proceeded from the fact that we must form two fleets, rather than just splitting up materiel according to the principle of accountancy, as it were, with the remainder of the value being calculated etc. (Instead), we for quite a long time have been working to create two fleets, two forces, and I would not say it was simple. We believe that those forces must jointly ensure both the security of Ukraine (in the south) and, undoubtedly, the security of Russia and its (strategic) interest in that theater or that basin, no doubt communicating with each other, undoubtedly so. I think that their future is a joint strategic mission. [passage indistinct]

The main position of ours on this issue is this: First, our unalterable principle is that everything that is on the territory and soil of Ukraine and the territory of (Crimea) is the property of Ukraine. We acted in accordance with that principle from the outset of the negotiations [words indistinct] and we cannot offer anything other than that, because this is what is required by our laws and this is how our state wants it today. That is our property. [passage omitted]

[Marynenko] Does the Russian side realize how much renting this infrastructure, that you once again said belongs to Ukraine and the people of Ukraine, will cost?

[Shmarov] I do not think it does in terms of specific figures, because it was not practiced in the former union. [passage omitted]

Now, as for the bases. It is a common secret that the bases of the Russian Navy and those of the Ukrainian Navy are the stumbling block at these negotiations.

At the first stage, Russia unconditionally pushed for Ukraine to base its Navy in Odessa or Nikolayev and that was that. They did not even want to talk about Crimea. Understanding the importance of these negotiations and searching for ways of resolving this problem by peaceful means, as it were, i.e. by way of negotiations, the Ukrainian side, on the other hand, after all, consented that, all right, let Sevastopol be the Russian Navy base. At the same time, however, Ukraine proposed that other bases in that very Crimea belong to Ukraine.

[Marynenko] Tell me please, at this meeting with the Russian side, was understanding reached, as it were, or is the problem still quite complex?

[Shmarov] [Words indistinct] I have already said that we are definitely making headway. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Black Sea-Baltic League Conference Planned

LD1306092394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] A meeting of the committee organizing an international conference of political parties from the countries of the so-called Black Sea-Baltic area was held in Kiev. It has already been reported that this conference is being called on the initiative of the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party [of Ukraine], and the Green Party [of Ukraine] with the aim of setting up a league of political organizations of the countries between the [Black and Baltic] seas. In particular, it was stated at the meeting that the Belarusian Popular Front and a number of parties from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova, Romania, and Hungary have already expressed a desire to take part in the conference.

Zlenko Accepts North Atlantic Council's Crimea Stand

LD1206123994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] For a state like Ukraine, participation in the sitting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council promotes its gradual integration into the processes and structures now emerging in Europe. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Zlenko declared this in an interview for Ukrainian journalists after the Council had ended its sitting in Istanbul. Zlenko believes that such gatherings facilitate an immediate and open dialogue with partners, offering the chance to explain a position more clearly, while at the same time allowing the state to win supporters on an array of urgent issues.

Zlenko emphasized that this year's conference of heads of foreign political departments from 38 countries was, to a certain extent, a success with regard to greater understanding of existing problems and defining approaches to solutions. Zlenko expressed satisfaction with the fact that the statement adopted at the sitting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which assesses the situation around Crimea, notes that the Crimean issue should be solved in compliance with the UN Charter and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and with respect to Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Russian-Ukrainian Border Area Leaders Discuss Cooperation

WS1006134894 Donetsk DONBASS in Russian 1 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Stanislav Tyshchenko: "Border Oblasts"]

[Text] Although the border between Ukraine and the Russian Federation exists de jure and de facto, it somehow defies comprehension. It is too bizarre a fact, especially for elderly people. This is why it will not be taken seriously yet for a long time. But still, this is a fact. The division of the two sovereign states has been made and cannot be undone. It dealt a hard blow primarily to the economy of the former Soviet Union. Enterprises tightly linked with each other started to lose their ground. The absence of a single center with its almighty State Planning Committee, the disruption of links to the quick, and chaos in settlements of accounts led to the present condition. What next?

In eastern Ukraine, southern Russia, and the border-adjacent regions, attempts are being undertaken to somehow resuscitate economic relations based on the current situation in both countries. The press has already reported that border area leaders met in Belgorod and Kharkov to lay the groundwork for closer financial and economic cooperation. A similar meeting took place last week in Donetsk. It was held behind closed doors, and at a press conference held on 27 May, its participants were not too talkative, asking the journalists for questions without making any introduction. This is only natural—everything is still in a "suspended condition" of preparations, initial work, etc. Besides, an unclear political situation at either side of the border offers no strong grounds to hope for success of the planned undertaking.

However, there is a movement forward. A council of border area leaders was organized, and an agreement is in the works between Ukrainian and Russian Governments on cooperation among border areas. The status of those oblasts and specific routing of capital circulation is being determined.

The gist of the responses from the press conference participants is that the main purpose of this unconventional bilateral body is to reduce, if not eliminate, border and customs barriers and to make cooperation on the border more profitable, efficient, and to improve the living standards of Russian and Ukrainian people.

Of course, the intentions are good. But will they become a reality? This will depend on decisions made on the government level. Incidentally, the meeting was attended by representatives of Russian and Ukrainian presidents and governments. The following oblasts were represented: Donetsk, Lugansk, Sumy, and Kharkov (the delegation from Chernigov Oblast did not arrive). The Russian side was represented by Belgorod, Bryansk, Voronezh, Rostov, and Kursk Oblasts.

At the press conference, it was particularly stressed that the entire work of the border oblast leaders' council is intended to solve purely economic and humanitarian issues, but not political ones. For example, the association for economic cooperation "Russian-Ukrainian Union" is being established. Work is being conducted on the implementation of Leonid Kravchuk's edict on free education for Ukrainian and Russian students at colleges and universities located in the border areas.

In other words, the process has gotten off to a good start. The most important thing is that it is peaceful, based on mutual understanding, and that it pursues good intentions.

The next meeting, or to be more precise, the meeting of the council, is scheduled for September in Rostov-on-Don.

Radetskyy on Upcoming U.S. Visit, Russian Navy Base

LD1006220994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] On the eve of his official visit to the United States of America, which begins on 13 June, Ukrainian Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukraine's minister of defense, met representatives of the U.S. mass media accredited in Kiev.

Vitaliy Radetskyy related that he would be meeting the U.S. vice president, the secretary of defense, well-known senators, and the Ukrainian diaspora. Ukraine's minister of defense will also visit a number of military bases and observe the process of destroying a strategic ballistic missile and its launching silo. Among the issues it is planned to discuss during the week-long visit the problems of the development of Ukraine's armed forces, the continuation of nuclear disarmament in accordance with the trilateral statement by the presidents of the United States, Ukraine and Russia, national security, Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace program, the problem of Crimea and the division of the Black Sea Fleet occupy an important place.

When the U.S. journalists asked where, in the opinion of the Ukrainian military minister, Ukraine's Navy should be based, Vitaliy Radetskyy replied:

[Begin Radetskyy recording] There is no talk about this because [words indistinct] the Crimea is a constituent part of Ukraine. This issue is not even being raised, and it should not be raised either. Only one issue is being raised—the site for the temporary basing for the Russian Navy. [end recording]

Briefing Lists States Supporting Country's Stance on Crimea

AU1006162794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Jun 94 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Solidarity as Political Support"]

[Text] External political departments of Argentina, Denmark, Israel, China, and Japan have recently made official statements in support of Ukraine with regard to resolving the conflict situation in the Crimea. This became known at a briefing at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to official circles of the world's leading countries, international organizations, public associations, and the Ukrainian diaspora have also demonstrated their solidarity with our state. All of them are in favor of a peaceful settlement of the conflict situation in which the principles set by the CSCE—inviolability of borders and maintenance of states' territorial integrity—will be adhered to. It was also stated at the briefing that a Ukrainian delegation headed by minister of foreign affairs A. Zlenko will soon visit Istanbul where it will take part in the session of the Council of the North Atlantic Cooperation. The program "Partnership for Peace" will be the main topic of the discussion.

National Affairs

Tatarstan Treaty Seen Model for Crimea

944K1396A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jun 94 p 1

[Article by L. Buchinskiy under the rubric "Barometer of the Week": "The Key to the Gates of the Crimea"]

[Text] The noisy "sorting out" between Kiev and Simferopol remind one of a phenomenon of the recent past when the stupid wife tried as hard as she could to keep her husband not with charm but with the help of the party organization. But be that as it may, the past seven days have essentially been an international "Crimea week." On all continents and in all languages of the planet people have written about it, spoken about it, and waited for the appearance of another hot spot on the map. They waited with such impatience that it would seem that the ones that already have existed and still exist are not enough for mankind. Probably only vampires wait for blood this way. But here is what I wonder: In our malice and mindlessness have we really become like these bloodsuckers? But these "certain forces" that are interested in bloodshed and always remain unseen—who are they? Where are they? In Kiev or Lvov, "overseas" or in the sparse growth of trees beyond a nearby knoll in the Crimea itself? Who can tell us about this? One thing is unquestionable: They exist. Just as the stern young Philistine exists, the one who is ready to kill his compatriots for dollars. He did this in the Dniester region, Abkhazia, and Georgia. He is doing this professionally today in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Killing is his work, a bloody craft. He is a mercenary. For those same interested "certain forces" who, having given him a Kalashnikov automatic rifle and a cartridge pouch to go with it, paid generously for murder while they themselves remain in the shadows. Who is doing this? Perhaps a bold journalist? I wrote about this and I shudder to think about our colleagues in journalism who unthinkingly and in the service of these same interested "certain forces" select words like matches and help them to kindle the fire in their own home, on the threshold of the homeland.

I recall several weeks ago when our newly elected parliament had not yet begun to work and there was no discussion of returning to the 1992 Constitution, but in a Moscow newspaper that was once popular among the people there already appeared a matchstick-report under the heading "War in Crimea—and Everything Is Up in Smoke." That is how it is, and nothing less! It was all about the president of Ukraine overturning one of the first edicts of the president of Crimea. Let us make noise, brothers, let us make noise.... The Russian press, writes V. Popova, a Moscow journalist, in GOLOS UKRAINY for 31 May 1994, from time to time reports "on tanks that have arrived in Crimea, field hospitals that are prepared for receiving wounded from the 'Crimean front,' tens of thousands of international guards who are right on the verge of storming the state institutions of Simferopol. There is no doubt that somebody is skillfully orchestrating and directing this campaign. But who and in the name of what?"

Enough, colleagues. It is time for honor. It is unbecoming for us to be like the extreme right-wing nationalists in Ukraine who, in the words of the representative of the Ukrainian National Assembly, Oleg Vitovich, are already forming "recreation groups" who will actively propagandize Ukrainian statehood in the Crimea. (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA for 26 May 1994) This popular newspaper previously in two issues noted, fairly, in my view, that President Yu. Meshkov is not likely to want war. The head of the government, Ye. Saburov, and his Moscow team do not need war either...to what has been said one can add without exaggeration: The same thing applies to the newly elected parliament and all of us Crimeans!

Fortunately, the smell of gunpowder, iodine, and blood comes only from the pages of certain newspapers and also television programs. But in the Crimea it is a nice summer. Students and school children are taking exams. The cherries are ripening in the sun and the grain is ripening in the fields. Last Sunday was a holiday—Simferopol was 210 years old. There was dancing and music, and people went walking in all the parks and on the streets of the city, and there were colorful festive fireworks. This is the truth. This is reality. And all the talk about war in the Crimea or its fatal inevitability is a bluff, an idle fabrication.

In essence there is no conflict between Kiev and Simferopol. It was invented on the banks of the Dnieper-Slavutich by the high leaders of the Ukrainian independent and autonomous Ukraine. They saw in the aspiration of the Crimeans for a little more independence and freedom than they have now the right to decide for themselves what to do to live better, the beginning of the long ripening schism in the unitary state

of Ukraine. And this terrifies them. They are as afraid of this as they can be. Hence, the "war" of presidential laws, the desire to "set them straight," to put Crimean President Yu. Meshkov and the new parliament of the Republic of Crimea in their places. This could be the only motivation for L. Kravchuk's demand for the parliament of Ukraine to grant him additional authority to impose order in the Crimea and create a Constitutional Court. And now Rukh has also demanded that Leonid Makarovich eliminate the parliament and the institution of the presidency in the Crimea and introduce direct presidential rule. All this occurred last week. Fortunately, the period when Leonid Makarovich was dancing to the fiddle and tambourines of the Lvov directors has passed and he made no abrupt moves. Now the commissions of the Supreme Councils of Ukraine and Crimea are seeking a consensus. They will find it if they take advantage of the experience of relations between Russia and Tatarstan, where President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin visited last week. A half year ago they were faced with a situation there, which was identical to the current relations between Ukraine and Crimea. Thus, there was a bitter war of laws between the presidents. It continued until B. Yeltsin understood that it was pointless to wage it and proceeded to a compromise—treaty relations between Russia and Tatarstan. The treaty became the key to political stabilization. Here is what ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA wrote about it in a report on B. Yeltsin's visit to Tatarstan in the issue for 3 June 1994: "Far-sighted politicians like the president of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaymiyev, have understood that discussions of separatism and national independence helped them to come to power but by no means allow them stay at the helm since people are not fed on political ambitions and you cannot advance the economy with them." The treaty between Russia and Tatarstan, the newspaper continues, was a consequence of a recognized necessity.

Publishing a detailed discussion of the favorable changes that have occurred literally in a couple of months (the treaty was signed in February), the newspaper notes in particular that "Tatarstan has changed from a region which almost frightened children into one of the most peaceful republics for the life of people of various nationalities."

The model of the relations between the Center of Russia and Tatarstan is now being studied in Moscow as valuable experience and is regarded as a possible universal golden key which will open the doors to a constructive national and regional policy.

Perhaps there is a reason why Kiev is trying to use a similar key to open the gates of the Crimea and not resort to breaking and entering or looking for the key in the old trunks left over from Mazepa's times. Think, lads, apply yourselves.

Crimean Vice Premier 'Sees Crimean Future Within Ukraine'

AU1006133294 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 9 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE NOVOSTI published an interview with Crimean vice prime minister, Moscow economist Yevgeniy Saburov, in which he, in particular, characterizes the Crimean parliament. In his opinion, new voracious [holodni] people have come to power. They are not guided by the interests of voters, but by their own immediate interests. In Ye. Saburov's opinion, the way out of the deadlock lies in negotiations between the two sides that would rule out the use of force. He sees the Crimea's future "first and foremost, within Ukraine."

Kravchuk Submits Proposals on Measures for Crimea

LD1006161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1514 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 111 (601); compiled by reporters Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk has submitted to parliament proposals on measures that are to be taken if the Crimean parliament fails to make the Republic's laws in line with the Ukrainian Constitution. The statement was made to INTERFAX-Ukraine by the spokesman for the president Nikolay Mikhalchenko. However, he refused to specify what concrete measures the president wants to take. IF Note: Kravchuk fulfilled the decision adopted by parliament on 1 June about the drafting of a list of measures which may be used by Ukraine's state organs if Crimean law-makers cancel the laws which run counter to the Ukrainian Constitution. It is a matter of the Crimean decision to reinstate the Constitution adopted in 6 May 1992, which provides for dual citizenship for the inhabitants of the peninsula and the relationships between the Crimea and Ukraine based on agreements. Following the results of the talks in Simferopol of 2-3 June the delegations of the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments signed a communique where they fixed the mutual "understanding" of the fact that the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992 has provisions, which run counter to the Ukrainian legislation. It was decided to create a joint working group to improve Ukrainian legislation concerning the division of powers between the bodies of state power of Ukraine and the Crimea. The group started activities in Simferopol on Thursday [9 June].

In an interview with INTERFAX, the Ukrainian co-leader of the group, Vladimir Stretovich said that political problems will not be included in the discussion. We will use legal ways to find acceptable reservations which will reinstate the Crimean status-quo, he said.

Stretovich said that the group consists of lawyers who will study the Crimean and Ukrainian legislations from the professions point of view.

The use of force in the conflict is inadmissible unless all negotiating method are used. This is the position of the Ukrainian parliament, said the deputy.

Meanwhile, the head of the delegation of the Crimean parliament Sergey Nikulin in an interview with INTERFAX said that Simferopol will try to use legal means to solve the current situation in such a way so that the relations between Ukraine and the Crimea be based on principles of agreements as it was said in the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992.

We do not pose the question of the Crimea's secession from Ukraine. We want to have Russia to be as open to us as Ukraine is, said the Crimean deputy.

Crimean Delegation Submits Draft Agreement to Parliament

LD1106154394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Friday [10 June] evening the Crimean parliament's delegation from the joint working group submitted to the Ukrainian side a draft agreement between Ukraine and the Crimea.

The draft consists of three parts: powers the Crimea delegates to Kiev; powers Ukraine can delegate to the Crimea; and common powers, the leader of the Crimean delegation, Sergey Nikulin, told Interfax-Ukraina on Saturday [11 June].

Nikulin gave no details as to the content of the three parts. According to him, during their round of talks which was concluded in Simferopol on Friday "the two sides did not even try to consider those articles of the Crimean Constitution that do not suit Ukraine."

"The Crimean delegation declared that the Crimean Constitution will not be revised," he noted.

The final protocol signed by the leaders of the Ukrainian and Crimean delegations reflects the outlook of the Crimean side which believes that it's essential to work out constitutional foundations for dividing powers between the highest government bodies of Ukraine and the Crimea."

According to the document, solution to the "constitutional and legislative collisions" between Kiev and Simferopol should be reached in three stages: "work out an appropriate legal base, devise a legal mechanism for eliminating contradictions between the Crimea and Ukraine, and prepare recommendations for the Crimean and Ukrainian parliaments."

The working group believes that only the first stage has been completed so far, and insists that the work should be continued. Members of the group also think that representatives of the Crimean parliament should take part in drafting Ukraine's new constitution.

Saturday morning the Ukrainian delegation left for Kiev. The joint group may resume its work in Kiev next week.

Meshkov Approves Crimean State Affairs Service Regulations

LD1106183894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Simferopol, 11 June—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov issued instructions approving the regulations of the state affairs service of the Republic of Crimea. In compliance with these regulations the service consists of the directorate for the affairs of the Crimean president, the directorate for the affairs of the Crimean Government, the protocol department, the legal service, the information and analysis service, the service for the research of foreign political issues, and the financial service. The service will have 123 people on staff.

Crimea Presents Draft Treaty on Relations to Ukraine

LD1206125694 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Excerpt] A Crimean parliamentary delegation handed to the Ukrainian side a draft treaty on the relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine. The draft treaty stipulates, in particular, the delimitation of powers between the state power bodies of Crimea and Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Nikolay Mikhalchenko, an adviser to the Ukrainian president, said that he rules out the establishment of treaty (?wise) relations with the Crimean peninsula—a Ukrainian entity. In his interview for the Interfax news agency he stressed that the legislature of the Crimean Republic is to be brought into compliance with the Ukrainian legislation. [passage omitted]

Lawmakers on Crimea, Creation of Constitutional Court

WS1306093794 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 7 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Oksana Hutsul: "Crimea. What Will Come of It?"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Here is how deputies commented on the Crimean problem behind the scenes.

Anton Buteyko: The Ukrainian Supreme Council has the right to dictate its will and should do this, while other entities must obey. Crimea is an entity subordinated to Ukraine. In a situation like the one that has recently developed in Crimea, which can be qualified as a violation of territorial integrity and national sovereignty, the law "On State of Emergency" provides a solution. The

introduction of that law is also envisioned by international laws, however UN bodies have to be informed about such intentions in an appropriate manner. I do not think that we should resort to these measures now, however such a possibility should not be ruled out.

The draft law suggested by the president is just another postponement, while we are expected to make concrete steps.

Leonid Kuchma: The essence of the Crimean issue lies in the economy and not in politics. I am an advocate of negotiations and vaster economic independence. Look what is going on in Crimea: The adoption of a soft tax policy has caused an inflow of capital. According to my data, more than 600 billion karbovantsi have recently been transferred to Crimea by means of Ukraine's commercial banks. Crimea should suspend its decision regarding the constitution, while the Ukrainian Supreme Council should adopt a ban on the use of force. With regard to the proposals to create the Constitutional Court—can our legislature create it? In our state politics is ahead of the economy. Ukraine is actually approaching collapse, because with an economic plunge of 50 percent (this is how production has shrunk in Ukraine's light industries), states usually disintegrate.

Borys Oliynyk: The Crimean issue should be resolved by means of the Constitutional Court. However a limited period of time should be set aside for forming this court. I do not think that anybody would dare blame us for failure to do everything in our power to peacefully resolve the conflict. Introduction of presidential rule in Crimea is out of the question; we should act in line with the logic of our resolution. However we must determine certain time limits for a response from Crimean authorities.

Kravchuk Speaks at KhimVolokno Plant in Kiev

LD1106205094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 11 Jun 94

["Excerpt" of speech given by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at the KhimVolokno chemical fiber production association in Kiev on 10 June—recorded]

[Text] The economic and political situation in Ukraine are both developing with difficulty. However, this difficulty, thank God, does not go beyond the framework of laws and the Constitution. Within the framework of legislation and the Constitution, we coordinate all of the issues connected with interparty passions and with interparty struggle, as well as regional issues—in particular, the Crimean issue, a very complicated issue for us today. We work in a way so that Crimea can understand that simple norm, recognized by the world community, that it has no right to violate the territorial integrity of the state and alter its borders. We enjoy the support of the entire international community.

I hope that the Crimean leadership will assume responsibility in order to bring the processes within the framework of the Constitution. I, as the president of Ukraine, and the government act this way. We shall continue to act this way and tackle all issues proceeding from law and the Constitution. However, I emphasize again that the Crimean leadership has no right to step over the red line, which I mention. This is a violation of our state's territorial integrity. Well, I cannot say that we have a full understanding with Crimea. The problems are very complicated, but the information that is available to me, and I would like to share it with you, proves that there is a growing understanding among people—not at some level of power structures, but among people—and that the policy conducted by the Crimean leadership can lead to complications. Such understanding does exist. People, seeing these problems, these hotbeds, as we call them—both Karabakh and the Dniestr region, where it also happened, and Yugoslavia today. Thank God, the issue is being somehow tackled today. It can be solved step by step in Abkhazia where blood is being shed, where innocent people, women and children and those who have nothing to do with these conflicts, die and become refugees. People see this, and I think it will influence the Crimean leadership's policy and the actions. For our part, our actions will be adequate for the situation; however, we will by no means allow the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's borders to be violated. We say this openly and sincerely, and I am telling you this while I am aware of the fact that the Crimean issue is a painful issue for every person living today in Ukraine.

We have been able to follow the road of peace, tranquility, and accord, although there is certain pressure exerted on us from outside. We have internal problems as well. So far we have been unable to achieve civil accord as far as building and developing our economy, our political and power structures, and power institutions are concerned.

The previous Supreme Council had been working for four years. It failed to solve issues that needed to be solved at the constitutional level. It failed to adopt the Constitution. Ukraine is one of the few countries of the former USSR which has no constitution today. We are going to hold the elections without a constitution. We are going to hold the elections without relevant laws to regulate relations between the local and central bodies of power. We are going to hold the elections with no clear idea of the plenary powers of the bodies of power to be elected and the structure of that power; no idea of what will be its responsibility to the budget of Ukraine or the responsibility of the lower-level bodies of power to the higher-level bodies of power. We have no idea whether that vertical subordination system exists or does not exist. Today, we see that it can be destroyed. This will seriously endanger the arrangement of power in the state, and power is the lever by which all institutions in all areas of life are created: in legal, economic, political, and diplomatic areas, and so on. That is to say, we must have

constitutional and legislative norms to hold the elections, and we are going to hold them without those norms. This is unique, and it is not by chance that at the Supreme Council I appealed to the deputies and told them that today they.... [Kravchuk pauses] because this is exclusively within the competence of the Supreme Council to create the structure and to pass the laws on both the power structure and the elections.

The president has no such plenary powers. Therefore, the Supreme Council of Ukraine will naturally have to assume all responsibility for what we are doing today toward that end. I believe that the deputies understand this, and there is no exaggeration whatsoever at this point. Perhaps we shall manage—I mean at the Supreme Council they will manage—before the elections are held, to make some corrections and some amendments to the laws that will regulate relations and create the power structure.

As you know, there will be presidential elections, too. Strictly speaking, these elections, if we had a new constitution and laws.... [Kravchuk pauses] I was then speaking at the Supreme Council and saying that it is true that new power institutions had to be created to comply with the new constitution. But if this is not done, I am convinced that these elections will not bring better conditions or big changes in the economy and in politics all of a sudden. On the contrary, they distract people from fulfilling their [word indistinct].

I will use my own activities to illustrate this. This is the seventh election during the past four years that I have run in. Just imagine, the seventh election over four years. This means that I have been elected twice a year. Not appointed, but elected by people. This is the situation, and effort and energy are spared toward that end. [sentence as heard]

For example, I am a functioning president, and I cannot abandon my office duties today. Who will perform them for me? There is no vice president. The Constitution clearly stipulates that I have no right to pass my powers to anyone else. For example, if I go on a trip to some oblast, and the levers of power.... [Kravchuk pauses] And it is necessary to sign documents here, or to meet representatives of other states who visit Ukraine.

For example, next Tuesday [14 June] I am to fly to Luxembourg to sign a document on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union. This will be done for the first time ever, and by this I mean to say that those who claim that Ukraine conducts a policy of isolation, self-isolation, well, this is just untrue because Ukraine has been recognized by the whole world. If we said earlier that it was recognized by 50, 60, or 70 states, then today I say that the whole world has recognized Ukraine.

Ukraine joins the European community, the European Union with the rights of a partner. This is a fact, and this will be done next Tuesday on 14 June.

We signed the most important political and economic documents with Russia and other CIS countries. We signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation with Russia in 1990. A new, full-scale treaty between our states is being prepared now, and I hope that it will be signed after we solve yet another acute problem for Russia and Ukraine: the division and the status of the Black Sea Fleet. We have also made some progress here.

Therefore, the fact that Ukraine conducts some policy of isolation or self-isolation is a pure invention, indeed, a deliberate invention.

Ukraine is represented at international organizations. Official representatives of other states, including high-level representatives, visit Ukraine every day. You know, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel recently visited Ukraine. I mention the recent times. Is this self-isolation? Another thing is that the problems are solved in an acute manner and with difficulty. However, this is not our fault, or it would be more correct to say, not only our fault. There are problems in other states, and it is not easy to solve them, and everyone today is engaged in solving acute issues. Sometimes we have to act as a fire-fighting team instead of implementing a program step by step and consistently, a program which neither internal nor external factors influence seriously, but even if they do, these factors can be easily averted.

Kravchuk, Radetskyy Hold Conference on Armed Forces

AU1006133894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Commander in Chief Calls a Conference"]

[Text] A two-day operational conference with the leadership of Ukraine's executive power structures was held under the chairmanship of supreme commander in chief of Ukraine's Armed Forces Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. The main task of the conference was to deepen the knowledge of representatives of the state administration in questions of the military building and strengthening of the country's defense capability. As reported by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defense, the Ukrainian president pointed out in his speech that every leader must find and clearly comprehend his place and role in the system of state security. Ukraine's Armed Forces and the state apparatus must be constantly ready to defend Ukraine. its sovereignty, and territorial integrity—this is the demand of our time.

At the same time, Leonid Kravchuk stressed that political passions, which presently rage in Ukraine, must remain outside the Army, whose main task is to maintain the state's combat readiness and inviolability of its borders.

The Ukrainian president drew the audience's particular attention to the need to make every effort in order to

raise the authority of the military service and to elaborate a package of legislative acts, which would speed up the army's transition to the contractual basis of recruitment.

Ukraine's minister of defense Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy delivered a speech on the concept of the building and development of Ukraine's Armed Forces for the period of up to the year 2010.

On the second day of the conference, its participants visited the military training center "Desna," where they examined new samples of technology and weapons.

Government To Set Up Peacekeeping Forces

LD1106200894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] According to a statement by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press center, Ukraine intends to set up national peace-keeping rapid deployment forces. Kiev believes that such forces could interact with NATO and similar forces of other states within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program. I will recall that Ukraine joined the NATO program last February.

Plushch Says Kiev 'May Soon Be' Leading Arms Exporter

LD1206150094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Ukraine may soon be a leading exporter of its most sophisticated weapons, says the report by the analytical center of the election team of the candidate for presidency Ivan Plushch, which was released in Kiev on Sunday [12 June].

The document says the most promising export item may be the Kharkov-produced tank T-84 which surpasses in performance characteristics, western tanks and the Russian one, T-80.

Experts believe that Ukrainian submarines, air defence missile systems and missile complexes for Navy have good export characteristics.

Analysts believe, in 1995 Ukraine plans to start the production of a new submachine gun on the basis of the Kalashnikov. It surpasses the base model by many parameters.

The document says that Asia may be the most promising market for Ukrainian armaments. In this respect, Ukraine may be interested in the proposal by the Indian company, Resources Argumentation, which is prepared to give Ukraine a long-term credit for the development of the Ukrainian industry.

Kravchuk Says Candidates Views on Leader Unclear

LD1206150394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk said in the western city of Lvov that did not know what the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's Presidium or parliamentary groups thought about the candidates for premiership.

He emphasized the need to have the nominations thoroughly discussed and a final choice made.

Sources close to the leadership of the Ukrainian parliament said that the presidium had decided to ask Vitaly Masol to present his program.

He was nominated for premiership by Kravchuk. Prime minister before 1992, Masol was pensioned off.

Kravchuk said in Lvov he would explain his platform in a national radio address late on 13 June, nearly two weeks before the presidential elections.

Reveals Presidential Election Program in Lvov

LD1206161894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik, and Galina Nekrasova]

[Excerpts] Lvov, 12 Jun—Today, for the first time, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk unveiled his program for the 26 June presidential elections during a working trip to Lvov Oblast.

At a meeting at Lvov Polytechnic State University with representatives of the authorities of the western region of Ukraine, businessmen, the intelligentsia, and clergy, Leonid Kravchuk spoke of the main tenets of his program. Its main thesis is "to strengthen the state and speed up the reforms through civic accord." He sees his main task as head of government as ensuring that "the economic reforms get going and that people begin to live better lives," that Ukraine's state construction moves ahead.

Speaking of the Crimean problem, Leonid Kravchuk stressed that "no matter how events develop, Ukraine will not allow the territorial integrity of the state, its unity, to be violated. Regardless of what the Supreme Council, the government, the president of the Crimean autonomous entity do, everything will be done to ensure that events on the peninsula do not spill over the bounds of the Constitution of Ukraine. There can be no alternative here." [passage omitted]

During his trip today Leonid Kravchuk unveiled a monument in Lvov's central boulevard to Mikhail Grushevskiy who, in 1917-18, was the first president of the Ukrainian People's Republic.

The president of Ukraine left for Kiev in the evening.

Voters Back Kravchuk in Poll of Presidential Candidates

LD1006155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 10 June TASS—Over 27 per cent of voters would like Leonid Kravchuk to become Ukrainian president again. Ex-Premier Leonid Kuchma is supported by 20 per cent of voters, the second rating. Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Aleksandr Morozov is third, being backed by eleven per cent of voters. The fourth and fifth places are held by Vladimir Lanovoy, a prominent Ukrainian economist favouring the market, and Ivan Plyushch, former chairman of the Supreme Soviet. They are backed by four to 6 per cent of voters. Entrepreneur Valeriy Babich and Education Minister Petr Palanchuk are supported by only one per cent of voters.

This information was supplied to ITAR-TASS by the Kiev International Institute of Sociology and the sociology chair of the Kiev-Mogilyanskiy Academy which conducted a selective representative survey in Ukraine. As many as 1,004 people were polled in 126 cities and villages in 24 regions of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea.

There is information that 73 per cent of voters now intend to participate in the elections. Ten per cent are yet undecided. 17 per cent will not vote.

The poll also showed that Leonid Kravchuk is supported mostly by Ukrainian population, while Leonid Kuchma is supported by Russian-speaking population.

Nova Khvylya Members To Support Kravchuk

WS1006141394 Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] On 8 June at a news conference held in Lvov, Oleksandr Yemets, minister for issues of nationalities and immigration (who is running in the Supreme Council elections in Lvov's Halytskyy constituency supported by the "Nova Khvylya" coalition) addressed the issue of presidential elections.

Oleksandr Yemets said that candidates whom he would like to support (for example, Lanovyy), unfortunately, do not have any chances. The only possible competition is the one between Kravchuk and Kuchma. The nationalities minister stated that he is ready to support any candidate capable of countering Kuchma. "Although I have a great number of critical remarks regarding Kravchuk, the current situation is that no one but he can do that," Oleksandr Yemets said.

The same position was voiced last week by People's Deputy Taras Stetskiv, one of the "Nova Khvylya" leaders, in an interview with VYSOKYY ZAMOK.

Democratic Association States Pledge Support

LD1006114294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1950 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—At a news conference by leaders of the "Ukraine" democratic association on 9 June, Dmytro Pavlychko, elected as the association's chairman on 1 June, stated that at present the forces of the "right" had their candidates in 73 of the 113 constituencies where the elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine are to be held on 24 July, all of whom will be granted the association's material and moral support. He admitted that to do this will be difficult as the national democrats have been accused by the "leftists" in the course of the pre-election campaign of causing the country-wide economic crisis and the impoverishment of the people, and a similar situation might recur. Dmytro Pavlychko underlined that he only agreed to take charge of the association after the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh, NRU] pledged it had no intention of seceding from the bloc.

Dmytro Pavlychko, Oleksandr Lavrynovych (people's deputy, Rukh), Pavlo Movchan (people's deputy, "Statehood" grouping), Volodymyr Klymchuk (chairman, Liberal Democratic Party of Ukraine), and others who took part in the news conference emphasized that to the national democrats, today "the issue of primary importance is parliamentary elections, rather than that of the presidential election in Ukraine," as the forces of the "right" oppose a presidential election altogether.

As for supporting a particular candidacy, it was stated that so far, the national democrats lack a common point of view and it is likely that they will continue to lack one in the period before 26 June [presidential election date]. In Oleksandr Lavrynovych's words, the decision to support a particular candidacy will be made by NRU regional branches. Dmytro Pavlychko told the news conference that as the result of analyzing the candidates' pre-election platforms, there is no candidacy among those nominated that would satisfy the forces of the "right" entirely. "By way of politically dreaming," in Dmytro Pavlychko's words, the current situation is optimal: that is, Leonid Kravchuk is president and all his opponents in the pre-election contest, except for Leonid Kuchma, are members of the government.

It was stated at the news conference that the "Ukraine" democratic association will seek the agreement of Ivan Plyushch, Volodymyr Lanovyy, Valeriy Babych, and Petro Talanchuk to withdraw their candidacies in favor of Leonid Kravchuk, as "it is Kravchuk alone who can hold out against Kuchma" on the condition that all democratic forces unite.

It was announced at the news conference that Levko Lukyanenko [former head of the association] left the leadership of the association "for personal reasons" and he will not stand in the elections on 24 July. Mykhayo

Horyn [chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party, URP] added that Levko Lukyanenko would pursue a political career in the URP.

Radio Questions Kravchuk's Unexpected Support in West

LD1206140494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] On the eve of Leonid Kravchuk's visit to west Ukraine, its press came out in support for him as a presidential candidate. Kravchuk's tour of the Lvov Oblast is beginning today, two weeks before the election. Ukrainian political analysts are wondering why the nationalistic oblast, which only three years ago pledged its allegiance to Vyacheslav Chornovyl—Kravchuk's opponent at the first presidential election—is now supporting Kravchuk in the same way.

Is this a desire to spite the eastern area, which wants close cooperation with its Russian neighbor or do they now see Kravchuk as a nationalist patriot number one?

Significantly, as a part of his pre-election tour, Kravchuk today opened in Lvov city center a monument to Mikhail Grushevskiy, the first Ukrainian president of 1918, a historian and a politician who declared the country's independence.

Thus the incumbent will raise his popularity even more. Local leaders believe that Galichina [historical name of the Lvov area] should again assume the historic role of the state's savior. Leonid Kravchuk is the one at the forefront here.

Presidential Candidates' Chances Viewed

WS1306090094 Kiev VYBIR in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Article by Vyacheslav Pikhovshek: "The 'Great Seven' at the Finish of the Presidential Marathon"]

[Text] The presidential elections, in addition to their direct results (after all, we will have a new guarantor of our statehood), will become a universal sociological survey of Ukrainian citizens' moods, particularly during the first round, since everybody will have the opportunity to elect a suitable man. Only Lanovyy and Babych seem to be similar to each other; Plyushch, Kuchma, Moroz, Talanchuk, and, of course, the current president can be easily distinguished one from another.

It is impossible to analyze the candidates' chances of being elected for the highest state office without reviewing the latest steps taken by our heroes.

Leonid Kravchuk

Obviously, he has recently met with misfortune. There was a time when Leonid Makarovych [Kravchuk] lived in three dimensions—simultaneously, he would state that it is impossible for him to personally participate in the presidential race, insist on the need to postpone the presidential elections, and collect signatures as a presidential candidate—which is the elementary behavior of a politician for whom power is above everything. Since the elections will be held anyway, even after numerous "appeals by company staffs" and during "the battle for crops" and "the winter-summer period of production," Leonid Makarovych has begun to "flex his muscles," and, undoubtedly, he will offer citizens a whole range of diplomatic successes and market-oriented speeches, award farm workers, disclose some unlucky Mafioso, stigmatize separatists, publish a book about fertile blacklands and colorful placards with his autographs, and, in general, he will do a lot of pleasing things which are so characteristic of him. Currently, there is a "time of work" for Kravchuk, and his victory is not as obvious as it was in 1990, since the following man has become a destabilizer in his triumphant march:

Ivan Plyushch

Even though the two men still shake hands publicly, the straightforward Ivan Stepanovych [Plyushch] has recently stated that he had "a secular" conversation with Leonid Makarovych, explaining that, as he understands the word, "secularism" is when one says what should be said, but not what one thinks. Plyushch is currently trying to outmaneuver the president in everything, since after the defeat of the faithful-to-him Durdynets [former Supreme Council deputy chairman], he is running the risk of losing his hard-earned influence. The conflict between the "ideologists" and the "economists" within the nomenklatura has reached its apogee, which, on the other hand, shows that the nomenklatura has definitely been nationalized—it also has two hetmans now. Plyushch has undergone some unusual metamorphoses: While taking advantage of his image of economic leader, Ivan Stepanovych does not forget to react to political junctures in time, having temporarily mutated into a federalist. His latest statements, including the one in which he said that he is ready to personally head the government in the event of his victory, show that Ivan Stepanovych has bet everything on the presidential office, which suggests that he has probably done his "homework" on the eve of elections. Although Plyushch does not forget about his voters (the majority of whom live in Galicia and rural areas), due to the activeness of Oleksandr Moroz, his successor in parliament, the main battle will take place on Leonid Kuchma's territory.

Oleksandr Moroz

Every day, he increases his chances in the presidential battle, and the main question is whether he will manage to win enough popularity, during the short time remaining, to be elected.

His election as Supreme Council speaker increased his chances in the battle for deputy seat. For people who are secretly longing for "the good old times," he is attractive,

because he is promising to base his position on "creatively modified" Marxism, and he does not repel all the others, since, after all, he supports independence and speaks in Ukrainian.

Moroz has a pretty good chance to lure voters who have not yet defined their positions, and who like the new speaker's manners. Moroz has yet another advantage. Unlike all the other candidates, he does not complain, but proposes. A whimpering image is represented by another candidate:

Leonid Kuchma

The former prime minister has significantly "marked down" his pro-Russian stance, and he is consistently trying to straddle the line between "independence" and "healthy pragmatism," which is not a very easy thing to do, since people want to obtain unequivocal answers to unequivocal questions. Apparently, Kuchma is the only one who is not working to alter his image, stubbornly sticking to the line of sad economist, who was rejected by "someone" wrong. Due to the campaign against Kuchma, conducted by all of his foes, Kuchma may lose some of his votes. As everybody knows, concerned over this campaign, Kuchma has met with the Rukh leadership, and as one of the participants in this meeting claims, he has even promised Rukh certain key positions in the future government.

After the defeat of the Interregional Bloc [illegible]eforms in the elections and refusal to recognize the [illegible]uty powers of Volodymyr Hrynyov, Leonid Kuchma is in need of new partners. However, due to the peculiarities of his nature, Kuchma has a gift to lose political allies without gaining new friends. For many of his potential voters, he still remains a man who "promised a lot, but did not do anything," and for those who still try to think independently, the following man is much more attractive:

Volodymyr Lanovyy

No matter what the real reason behind Lanovyy's joining the presidential race, one thing is obvious: In any case, Volodymyr Tymofiyovych is winning popularity all over Ukraine, which can become a starting block for quite another "jerk." Lanovyy's main weakness is his youth, and the main weakness of his presidential campaign is that his rivals are still emphasizing his "academicism," forgetting about his experience in the sphere of production.

Although the majority of Kiev residents will most likely vote for Lanovyy, he does not have many chances for victory, nor does his rival Babych.

Petro Talanchuk and Valeriy Babych

The education minister has the worst chances among all the candidates. It is possible that his campaign will end by withdrawing his candidacy in favor of someone stronger—Kravchuk or Plyushch. Valeriy Babych, who is still trying to continue an independent game, is in a better situation. Babych, former Komsomol leader, is currently exploiting the image of businessman descending from the people, who "became somebody" only thanks to his determination and willpower. Babych's propaganda is a mixture of Lanovyy's market proposals and Kuchma's "pro-Russian attitude." Yet, Babych is not particularly active in the electoral battle, properly believing that he cannot count on victory too much. Apparently, after the defeat of several "businessmen" in the parliamentary elections, more and more businessmen begin to understand that money does not resolve everything in politics.

Chances and Prospects

The closer to 26 June, the more precise candidates' political positions. Kravchuk "is urging reforms" and threatening political Philistines with "a leftist parliament." Plyushch has become a federalist, and he wants to head the government. Kuchma is dodging clear answers to questions concerning relations with Russia, and he is demonstrating his discontent with [Crimean President] Meshkov. Moroz is surprised when he hears that "the leftists are against the market," and has suspended his membership in the Socialist Party. The general harmony has been joined by newspapers supporting their own candidates. According to a survey of the press, conducted by the "Rivnist Mozhlyvostey" [equality of opportunities] committee between 23 and 29 May, newspapers published at the expense of Ukrainian taxpayers have already clarified their positions: HOLOS UKRAYINY devoted most of its space to candidate Kravchuk, UKRAYINA MOLODA—to candidate Moroz, ROBITNYCHA HAZETA—to candidate Kuchma.

Kravchuk, Plyushch, Moroz, and Kuchma have the best chances. In a situation when the risk level is the same for all candidates, Kravchuk and Kuchma have the greatest chances of advancing to the second round, which means that Leonid Kravchuk will be reelected.

The situation is being complicated by the fact that Ukrainian legislation does not define the ethical conduct of someone who already holds an official post and repeatedly runs in the elections. In other words, our society is not insured against certain official's—such as the speaker or president—using the entire arsenal at his disposal to influence, for instance, the television or special services against his opponents. It cannot be said, however, that this is currently taking place in Ukraine, but this still means that one can manipulate our society.

Kravchuk Admits 'Possibility' of 2 Official Languages

LD1306113394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is one of the candidates to the presidential post in the current election campaign, admits the possibility of two

official languages—Russian and Ukrainian, Interfax-Ukraine reports. This idea is set forth in Kravchuk's election program, entitled "Through Civic Accord to a Stronger State and Faster Reforms."

Observers believe that the recognition of Russian as Ukraine's second official language will win him additional votes in the predominantly Russian eastern and south-eastern regions.

If elected, Kravchuk will work for the adoption of a new constitution. He favors a presidential-parliamentary form of government which, he says, excludes the monopolization of power by one of the authoritative branches.

Kravchuk supports the concept of unitary state with a well-developed network of local governments and broad economic independence of the regions. He also favors a legal settlement of relations with Crimea. He comes out for the development of the CIS, for a more intensive economic integration of the CIS countries and for equitable relations with the neighbors, including Russia.

Kravchuk attaches great importance to a radical improvement of the investment climate and will make efforts to ensure that Ukrainian and foreign entrepreneurs be equally interested in making investments to the Ukrainian industry.

He is planning to accelerate the monetary reform and to introduce the internally convertible "hryvna."

He favors the idea of lowering the bank rates, separating the finances of industrial enterprises from the state budget, and accelerating privatization under state control.

Supreme Soviet Speaker Moroz Interviewed

MK1006124094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 23/48, 10-16 Jun 94 (Signed to press 9 Jun) p 2

[Interview with Oleksandr Moroz, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet speaker, by Grigoriy Spektor; place and date not given: Under the "Hello!" rubric: "Speaker Proposes Strong Government for Ukraine"]

[Text] Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet, has decided to meet the press in his new capacity. The questions to the speaker were put by OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent Aleksandr Spektor.

[Moroz] The decision to put myself of all people at the head of parliament is the optimal variant. In the difficult time Ukraine is going through, the reins of government should be in strong hands. In guiding parliament I am not supposed either to tug at the reins or to let them go slack. Today all normal politicians are Marxists in the best sense of the word who, having dialectically mastered the whole mass of knowledge, are creatively using it. If one tries to pressure me they'll know where to quit.

[Spektor] Do you think selling land may mark the beginning of Ukraine's pulling out of the crisis?

[Moroz] Given the Republic's economic situation, to turn land into a commodity, is a crime before the people and the future generations. An unemployed person in the West gets benefits 50 times that of a Ukrainian professor's salary. Granted dual citizenship, that person could buy with his benefit payment vast tracts of land. Selling land as a condition for getting foreign investments is unacceptable. Investors of this sort may pursue different ends. Investments for partnership may be secured in a dignified way, through a long-term lease for example. But the West's attitude to Ukraine is too short-sighted. Including to Ukraine's desire to become a non-nuclear power. No, we are not in a position to maintain nuclear weapons today. They should not become necessary for us in the future. But we cannot get rid of them overnight. Compensation to Ukraine for giving up nuclear weapons is in fact the West's payment for its own peace and security. But the West has decided to profit by someone else's misfortune; it has offered Ukraine only humiliating handouts. This, despite the fact that the desire of a nuclear power to go over to non-nuclear status has no precedent in world history so far.

[Spektor] Do you agree with the widely held opinion that a number of deputies are engaged in commerce?

[Moroz] Yes, this did and will happen. It is the possibility to engage in honest commerce that progressive politicians have been pressing for. But to benefit the state, the people, not just themselves alone. In order that commercial activities of deputies stay within the law, the commission on combating organized crime should be real, effective, and subordinated to the Supreme Soviet chairman. This parliament is in for difficult and unpopular measures, with part of Ukraine's population, to reinvigorate the ailing economy—primarily the sphere of regulating foreign currency turnover, and control over credit policy. There should be an efficient government in order to control economic life normally. The present government is no longer competent, it is incapable of creative work. Therefore a new government should be formed immediately without waiting for possible presidential elections: Anarchy is ruinous for Ukraine; if the paralysis of power drags on, the process of disintegration may become irreversible. [interview ends]

For the time being Oleksandr Moroz is among those who are running for president. It is probable, however, that closer to the election date he will drop out. Most probably in favor of Leonid Kuchma.

Acting Socialist Party Chairman Holds News Conference

WS1306093694 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 27 May-2 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Zabirko]

[Text] There can be different attitudes toward the suspension of political activities by Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Political Committee of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, who has decided to focus on issues of the state at large. It is common knowledge that foreign parties' leaders do not act in this way. Apparently, this is why a news conference began with the reading of a statement issued by the political committee, and only then did Sergey Kiyashko—who is acting as chairman until another Socialist Party Congress—brief attendees on the first weeks of the new parliament's work, and in particular, the socialist faction's activities, as well as answer questions from journalists. He said that Oleksandr Moroz does not intend to drop out of the presidential race. In his opinion, the election should be held in June.

Later, Yuriy Boldyrev, member of the "Yednist" parliamentary group which unites entrepreneurs, also appeared at the House of Public Organizations' conference room. On property issues, the group sympathizes with the right wing, and on cultural ones, as Boldyrev said, it is ready to cooperate with the left wing. In general, the answers could give the impression that the division and search for compromises in the parliament are still continuing. Members of the Labor Party, for example, have joined various factions. Judging from all signs, fruitful legislative work will begin no time soon.

The presence of regular party members at the news conference was unusual. So was the presence of Donetsk Oblast Council Chairman V. Chuprun, who enjoys the socialists' support in the election for oblast leader. V. Chuprun reported that a regular session of representatives of 10 bordering Russian and Ukrainian oblasts will be held in Donetsk on 27 May.

Socialist Party Leaders in Lvov Outline Policy, Prospects

WS1306104794 Lvov RATUSHA in Ukrainian 28 May 94 p 2

[Interview with Yevhen Talipov, chairman of the Lvov City Committee of the Ukrainian Socialist Party, Ivan Lutsuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Socialist Party Oblast Committee, and Oleksandr Pokrovskyy, member of the Ukrainian Socialist Party Political Council, by Oleh Statsyshyn; place and date not given]

[Text] Our meeting with the leadership of the Lvov branch of the Ukrainian Socialist Party [SPU] was held in one of the downtown bars. Six leaders of the Lvov branch, including SPU Oblast Committee Chairman Ivan Lutsuk, SPU City Committee Chairman Yevhen Talipov, and Oleksandr Pokrovskyy, member of the SPU Political Council, were present. These names are not well-known to the general public, however, to a great extent, their viewpoints reflect the position of the party. It is natural that the interview began with a question as to how the SPU views the current political situation in our state.

[Talipov] The fact that Chairman of the Political Council O. Moroz became Supreme Council chairman is positive. He is not a political novice. I do not think that Ukraine will lose while he is in office. He has profound experience and a desire to work. I believe that he will become a consolidating factor and will not be affected by political affinities.

[Statsyshyn] Do you believe that Moroz will manage to unite the leftist and right forces?

[Talipov] If he is unable to do this, we were wrong and should not have placed our stakes on him. He has every opportunity and all the strength to unite the legislature. The key issue is the independence of Ukraine, the welfare of the population, and adhering to promises which we gave to our people.

[Statsyshyn] Some SPU deputies see their primary mission as "restoring what has been ruined by the democratic administration." What do you mean by this?

[Talipov] Our position is clear and evident. Each Supreme Council deputy—before he was elected a deputy—provided a program which promised welfare and more active battles for the independence of Ukraine, democracy, and social progress. The previous legislature did not fulfill any of their promises—virtually nothing was implemented, only streets were renamed, symbols changed, "wild" capitalism was imposed on us and, in addition, they resigned early. Therefore, people said "no" to them. Currently, new people—able to rebuild Ukraine—will come to power. However, reconstruction does not mean the destruction of everything which existed before. The previous legislature adopted some 300 legislative acts. Should we repeal them? The key task is to continue reviving Ukraine.

[Statsyshyn] What priorities were discusses at the SPU plenum?

[Pokrovskyy] I participated in the work of the plenum. The democratic administration ruined some things and we should restore them. They completely ruined the economy over the past four years. Dozens of enterprises do not work, employment and prices have grown considerably. Therefore, I believe, that the key task is to restore the economy. The principle aim is to stabilize prices, restore a stable national currency, liquidate profiteering, and restore the volume of production. We discussed this at the plenum. The point is that it is necessary to stabilize the political system in Ukraine, to unite the efforts of all political parties, trade union movements, and working collectives to resolve economic issues. To consolidate society, the Political Council adopted a decision to suspend the activities of O. Moroz as chairman of the SPU. His obligations were transferred to People's Deputy Serhiy Kyyashka.

[Statsyshyn] Are the fears of Ukraine losing its independence under socialist rule founded?

[Talipov] The one who says these words has not read any of the SPU documents. You will not find anything you are speaking about in our program. The West does not welcome us, we wish to restore the relations which have been ruined. Those people—the ones who did this—are now wealthy. However, working collectives and working people suffer. Therefore, we will never tell people such nonsense. Why was Oleksandr Oleksandrovych supported in the legislature? Because he did everything to revive Ukraine. In the true sense of the word.

[Statsyshyn] You said that Moroz's task was to unite all of the political forces. How will you explain that neither Kostenka nor Durdynets—who were proposed by other legislative factions—were elected deputy chairmen? How will Moroz find common language with, let us say, Chornovol or Khmara? Do you think that they want to unite with you?

[Lutsuk] What is the basis for consolidating political forces? The concept of independence. This is one of the postulates of the SPU program. Do Chornovol or Khmara oppose independence? Ukraine has huge economic potential. Therefore, we support a wealthy Ukraine. Do Chornovol or Khmara oppose this? Therefore, I believe that we will be able to find common language with both Chornovol and Khmara.

[Talipov] By the way, according to Ivan Makar, O. Moroz is the smartest Supreme Council deputy. The Supreme Council chairman is a person around whom all parties and movements should unite. He should not adopt someone's platform, such as our esteemed President Kravchuk did. Either he consolidates with Rukh or he goes to the people, or he goes somewhere else; in a word, he has no established position. The Ukraine of today is neither communist, nor socialist, nor belonging to Rukh, nor to anyone else. We have a multiparty system and the people will decide for themselves who they will follow. The fact that the bloc of leftist forces won in the election demonstrates that the people's eyes have been opened and esteemed deputies should respect their opinion. There are still such people who believe that the "Rukh is our navigator."

Government on Rules Out Closing Down Chernobyl

LD1006180094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 10 June TASS—"The halt of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will not change the general situation, bearing in mind the operation of Chernobyl-type reactors at other power plants of the Dnieper River basin near the Ukrainian borders. Nobody is going to halt them," says a report of the Ukrainian Government circulated here today in response to the campaign of the Greenpeace international non-governmental ecological organization which demands an immediate halt of the Chernobyl plant.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian Government, this problem should have a comprehensive solution. Nuclear reactors have been given preference in development of power engineering over the past decades. Ukraine has practically not modernized thermal power plants and power plants of other types. The majority of them now have worked-out technical resources and equipment which require immediate modernization and the introduction of modern ecological technologies of burning. Thus, the Ukrainian thermal power engineering will not compensate the halt of the nuclear power plant which counts for almost 10 per cent of electricity production capacities.

The government is doing much to raise the plant's safety. There are no deviations in its work. Two units are working in the permitted capacity regime. The state of the "shelter" facility over the damaged unit, as well as of the whole plant is under permanent control of the State Committee for Supervision over Nuclear Safety.

"The complete halt of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will turn it into the largest energy consumer from a major energy producer. Some 300 million kilowatt-hours of electricity will be needed to keep the technical state of the plant every year, not to mention huge state allocations," says the document. One should also not forget about social problems.

One can understand the demands to immediately halt the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. "However, this problem can have a constructive solution only through the modernization of the whole energy complex, which Ukraine will not be able to do without international assistance.

"The intention of the G7 to discuss assistance to the Ukrainian power engineering, including the safety of its nuclear power engineering and the future of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, is a great hope.

"There are no doubts that all problems related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be further solved with due account of the requirements of population safety and environmental protection," says the report.

Contaminated Water Leakage 'Inconsiderable'

LD1006175894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 10 June TASS—An inconsiderable increase of technological leakage of contaminated water from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's basin of worked-out fuel assemblies has been registered today, head of the

Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear Power Engineering's Emergency-Dispatcher Department Sergey Nazarenko told ITAR-TASS.

In his words, the system of technological water collection excludes their leakage in the environment and provides for reliable collection of the contaminated water and its processing.

The radiation situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is now normal, he said.

Leak Confined Within Station

LD1106154494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] At the Chernobyl nuclear power station, a leak from a pool with used fuel cassettes was detected on 11 June.

As the Chief of Ukraine's National Committee for Emergencies Sergey Nazarenko has told INTERFAX, water did not spread outside the station grounds. In his words, polluted water has been reliably collected for special treatment.

The situation at Chernobyl is said to have returned to normal.

Another Water Leak Reported

LD1106220894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2105 GMT 11 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] On 11 June a water leak was discovered at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine. The water was leaking from the holding reservoir of the power generating unit No. 2. The reservoir is used to store cassettes with worked-out fuel. A shift leader at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Aleksandr Yelchishchev, said the leak had not led to changes in background radiation levels in the nearby premises. Let me remind you that in accordance with the existing schedule, power generating unit No. 2 is currently undergoing decommissioning.

Two Tonnes Per Hour Leaking

LD1306145294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that in the second unit of Chernobyl nuclear power station, approximately two tonnes of water, with a radioactivity of approximately 1.0 microcuries per liter, has been leaking out from the initial location of the containment of nuclear assemblies [yaderna kaseta], which have been spent in the reactor (the cooling pond), each hour since 7 June because of damage, which has not been found yet.

Hennadiy Masakov, head of the inspectorate of the state committee for nuclear and radiation safety at Chernobyl nuclear power station, told a UNIAN correspondent that 480 nuclear assemblies from the reactor, which was stopped in October 1991 following the fire in the turbine room, had been placed in the cooling pond. The collection of the leaked water has been organized at the unit. In addition to the basic scheme of the water supply in the cooling pond, another three reserve ones have been prepared.

The nuclear assemblies are not threatened with being without water.

According to an elaborated program, the search for the location of the water leak is being carried out.

It has been reported at Ukraine's state committee for the use of nuclear power that such incidents have occurred before, but on 7 June it became more noticeable. The level of radioactivity has not changed and remains lower than normative restrictions.

The document on this event, which Viktor Vasylchenko, chief engineer at Chernobyl nuclear power station, signed, contains this conclusion: "There is no uncontrolled emergence of radioactive substances in accordance with restrictions established by conditions of normal operation, no increase in the dose of the irradiation of personnel, nor additional contamination of the environment due to the leakage of water from the cooling pond."

Nuclear Power Plants Overfill Plan in May

LD1306102194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Summary] During May Ukraine's nuclear power stations produced 40.2 percent of the total quantity of electric power produced in the state. They produced 6.197 billion kilowatt-hours of electric power, or 104.8 percent of the plan.

Belarus

Defense Ministry Statement Dissociates Army From Politics

WS1006141494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Already at the beginning of the election campaign, concern was voiced (?at the session of the Collegium of the Defense Ministry) over an increase in political and information tension around the Armed Forces. Currently, these negative trends are progressing. This caused the Defense Ministry to release a statement.

The statement says that lately some political structures have made attempts to speak on behalf of the Armed Forces trying to impose their own presidential candidate. Worries are also triggered by antiarmy sentiments present in the programs and speeches of some presidential candidates.

In connection with this, the Defense Ministry states that the Armed Forces decisively dissociates itself from all attempts made by political parties and organizations to involve it in battles for power.

Another segment from the statement released by the Collegium of the Defense Ministry states: Servicemen are full-fledged citizens of the Republic. During the elections, they have the right to exercise their constitutional right, to express their own will, and to vote for any candidate who actually has the interests of the state in mind.

Hryb Praises Nazarbayev's Eurasian Union Plan

MK1106104994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Nazarbayev's Idea Gains Supporters]

[Text] Mecheslaw Hryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belorussia [Belarus], declared yesterday that he thinks highly of the model for building a Eurasian union proposed by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Moldova

Luchinskiy Comments on Russian World Role

LD1106080294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] June 11 TASS—On the eve of Russia's Independence Day Petr Luchinskiy, chairman of the Moldovan parliament, gave an interview to TASS. He congratulated Russian citizens on the occasion and said that "Russia has been, is and will alway be a great power. It has an enormous potential. It will overcome difficulties, and its revival is sure to come." He pointed out further that the Russian and Moldovan nations have a long record of friendship and cooperation, and he is sure that those relations will be continued. It is not accidental that the first legal act, adopted by the Moldovan parliament after the proclamation of independence, was the treaty on bilateral relations with Russia.

Speaking about the conflict in the Dniester region, Luchinskiy said that the problem emerged, when the USSR was still in existence. Russia and Moldova inherited it together with a Russian army, deployed on the left bank of the Dniester River. The political make-up is rather complicated in Russia today. "We have mutual understanding with the Russian leadership. However, there are political forces in Russia which support separatism in Moldova," he said. The chairman of the Moldovan parliament pointed out that people in the Dniester region were tired of hostility. They do not want to be hostages of adventurers. "The region has been turned of late into one of the strongholds of international terrorism. By the way, I am quoting the words of Russian General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the army deployed there. He is urging the local population not to trust the Tiraspol leadership, which is steeped in stealing and corruption," Luchinskiy said. A favourable moment has come for settling the problem of the Dniester region. Tremendous changes took place in Moldova, especially after the latest elections the the public opinion poll. People no longer trust extremists.

In the opinion of Luchinskiy, nothing binds people better that common interests and a common market. We should bring down the politization of our relations, should give a chance to the economic agreements, signed within the CIS framework, to start working. We need a free movement of goods, capital and workforce. Moldova is tied to the Russian market. We should cooperate, if this is advantageous for both countries.

Opposition Leader Rejects Ethnic Minority Rights Bill

AU1106205494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/6/1994—"We consider that the discussion itself on the granting of a special juridical status to districts populated by the Gagauz ethnics or to the Dniester region emerged through the pressure of the Russian empire, which is trying to stimulate separatism in Moldova," declared to BASAPRESS Iurie Rosca, the leader of the Alliance of Christian Democratic People's Front of Moldova [AFPCDM]. The members of the AFPCDM consider that the Gagauz issue can be solved by adopting a regulation, which would represent the interests of national minorities. "Such a law exists: It was adopted by the former parliament and was named the Law on National Minorities,"

mentioned Rosca, adding that decentralization of state power would contribute to a faster settlement of the dispute with the Southern districts. Rosca also declared that the adoption of a special juridical status for the Southern districts will mark the beginning of the federalization of the republic. "The AFPCDM will oppose this draft bill," declared Rosca.

PDMM Holds News Conference, Condemns Draft Press Law

AU1006153594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 0445 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 8/6/1994—The attempt on the national anthem is an attempt on Moldova's independence and sovereignty committed by the governing party, declared today Alexandru Arseni, chairman of the Moldovan Democratic Party of Labor (PDMM) at a press conference. Arseni also stated that the draft law on press is a draft pointed against the press; it violates the Universal Declaration on Human Rights stipulating the delivery of correct and uncensored information to people. "Under present conditions Moldova does not need a law on press," said Arseni. Vlad Darie, member of the PDMM Coordinating Council, mentioned that the governing party, PDMM, will be soon removed, and its place will be taken by the socialists and communists. Many mayors who did not support the PDMM during the electoral campaign were fired. Concerning this, the PDMM Republican Council made public a declaration calling "the extension of the results of the parliamentary elections on the local administrative organs a violation of the Constitution." "The PDMM informs the representatives of the CSCE, the European Council, foreign embassies and political parties and movements about the real threat of restoring totalitarianism and obscurantism in our country," says the declaration.

Tiraspol Accuses Snegur of Stalling Negotiations

AU1106205194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 9/6/1994—The press service of the president and government of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic made yesterday, 8 June, an official statement concerning the negotiations on the granting of a special juridical status to the Dniester region. According to the statement, Igor Smirnov accuses Moldovan President Mircea Snegur of avoiding and slowing the negotiations. The Tiraspol authorities also deny any correlation between the solution of the Dniester dispute and the solution of the southern districts' [ethnic Gagauz'] problems. The press service reports that "Smirnov asked Vladlen Vasev, special envoy of the Russian president to the negotiations, to put pressure on President Snegur in order to force the latter to speed up negotiations."

Joint Control Commission Examines Situation in Dniester

AU1006154494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 0445 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Tighina (Bender), BASAPRESS, 8/6/1994—Today, the Joint Control Commission for overseeing the implementation of the Snegur-Yeltsin Convention in Dniester held today a session in Tighina (Bender). According to the report presented by the joint military command, the situation of the controlled zone was stable last week. There were cases when the control performed by military experts failed but this was not their fault. According to the report, the Dniester presidential representative Tom Zenovich impedes the military observers from controlling the Tighina fortress, where a Dniester motorized infantry battalion is located, thus breaching the Convention of 21 July 1992. The joint military command obliged the observers to signal the cases when the agreements are violated and assure the removal of obstacles. The session pointed out that the sides reduced the number of peace-keeping forces. To solve this problem, Moldovan, Russian and Dniester military departments were proposed to hold consultations regarding the number of peace-keeping soldiers and the weapons they should carry.

Delegates Issue Communique on 14th Army Negotiations

AU1006153194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 0445 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 8/6/1994—The 9th round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations on 14th Army's withdrawal finished today in Moscow, states a press communique issued by the delegations participating in the negotiations. According to it, "the delegations reached a high level of mutual understanding regarding all articles of the basic agreement there were differences only in opinions regarding the term of the withdrawal." The delegation heads drafted the intergovernmental agreement on the interactions regarding the inspection of the Russian military units temporarily located in Moldova. The inspection will be performed following the treaty on conventional military forces in Europe and the Vienna Convention on the measures of consolidating confidence and security. The agreements between the ministries of the two states regarding the aviation of the Russian military forces temporarily located in Moldova and the use of the Tiraspol Airport by the Russian Defense Ministry transport aviation were drafted. There were progresses in examining other documents on social problems and the 14th Army's property. Representatives of Moldova's Dniester region took part in the negotiations, states the communique.

14th Army Colonel Stirs Controversy in Tiraspol

MK1106092594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Yuriy Selivanov under the "Dniester" rubric: "Colonel Bergman's Personal War. Fourteenth Army Military Commandant Undertakes To Impose Order"]

[Text] There is hardly a day without Tiraspol's being rocked by yet another scandal involving Colonel Mikhail Bergman, local commandant of the 14th Russian Army. The indefatigable colonel recently exposed the Dniester leaders, charging them with illegal possession of firearms allegedly stolen from 14th Army depots. On this basis, the military commandant urged the Russian Federation authorities to strip the Tiraspol leaders of their Russian citizenship which they are shamelessly abusing, he said.

In the latest incident, all Tiraspol was shocked at the story involving the 14th Army commandant's office seizing the property of their fellow serviceman, General Kurchin, who decided to move together with his family to Russia and packed his bags into two rail containers. Bergman's subordinates moved in and seized the containers, carted them downtown, and dumped the contents on the ground for all to see, as if to say: There, dear people, look how the Dniester public property embezzlers make their fortunes.

The mass media of the Dniester Moldovan Republic have been hyping information about a letter Bergman allegedly sent to Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev personally. In it, having roasted Gen. Lebed, the 14th Army military commandant paints the situation in the Dniester Moldovan Republic in exceedingly dramatic light and suggests that Mr. Grachev charge himself with imposing order, which he promises to do inside the briefest space of time. Mr. Bergman has neither confirmed nor denied the existence of such a letter.

Informed observers are inclined to link the colonel's extraordinary behavior with his special service record. Virtually all of his service has been in Tiraspol, where he knows everyone and everything. One can only envy his vast connections in the most different social sections, and few doubt that the colonel uses the 14th Army commandant's office alone for support. Whereas for Gen. Lebed the local skirmishes are no more than a stage in his biography, for Col. Bergman they seem to be his whole life. His current heightened activity in the field of combating Dniester corruption coincides in time exactly with Tiraspol's decision to institute criminal libel proceedings against him and its request to the Russian Federation Defense Ministry to transfer Mikhail Bergman to serve in some other region.

Russian Army Communique Protests 'Misinformation'

AU1106202494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 9/6/1994—The 14th Russian Army press center made public a declaration stating that "on 4 June the television station of the Dniester Republic broadcast the sensational news that the commander of the 14th Army's Tiraspol garrison, Colonel Mikhail Bergman sent a confidential letter to Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. According to the television station, which allegedly has a copy of the letter, Bergman demanded Grachev's consent in 'deposing the Dniester Republic's leadership.' The 14th Army command calls the 'intentional misinformation' broadcast by the television station as an attempt to involve the Russian top leadership in the current dirty political intrigues. The press center notes that they contacted the Russian defense ministry and that no letter has been received from Colonel Bergman. The defense ministry also said that if such a letter had been received, it would have been sent to General Lebed to take 'proper measures against instigators.' The 14th Army commander was compelled to send the Russian defense ministry the entire text of the letter allegedly written by Bergman." "The analysis of the letter shows the complicity of certain structures of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic in destabilizing the social-political situation and the justification of the extension of the state of emergency," states the 14th Army press center.

Dniester 'Spy' Discloses Purpose of Mission

AU1106204794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/6/1994—Yesterday, a certain Valeriy Arkan, who was previously sentenced to imprisonment made some statements broadcast on the ASKET television station. Arkan stated that he had been recruited by Major Yuriy Grushevskiy of the Dniester Security Ministry to spy on the Russian 14th Army command. He pointed out that his assignment was to take secret documents. Arkan mentioned that he was to find some documents proving the complicity of Colonel [Mikhail] Bergman [the commander of the Dniester garrison of the 14th Russian Army] and General Aleksandr Lebed [commander of the 14th Russian Army] in the assassination attempt against Dniester prosecutor Boris Luchik.

Border Checkpoint Talks Begin With Romania

AU1106205294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/6/1994—The negotiations between the Moldovan and Romanian Ministries of Foreign Affairs on changing the status of the [border crossing] points of Cahul-Oancea, Sculeni-Sculeni Giurgiulesti, and Costesti-Stanca began today in Galati, Romania. The Moldovan delegation, headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexandru Burian, is comprised by representatives of customs departments. Sources from the government told BASAPRESS that these negotiations are held according to the 15 February 1994 Governmental Agreement. According to it, some passage points would be granted international status. The same source mentioned that the, Cahul-Oancea, Sculeni-Sculeni Giurgiulesti, and Costesti-Stanca passage points were opened in 1991 to facilitate border traffic and serve only Moldovan and Romanian citizens and economic companies. At the same time, Ukraine and other East European countries want to cross their

goods and passengers at these points, at Giurgiulesti, in particular. The negotiations in Galati will not alter the passage regulations for Moldovan and Romanian citizens. Economic experts assert that one of the most difficult problems arising with this change of the passage points' status would be the creation of conditions corresponding to European standards for which Moldova is unprepared.

Official Denies Police Force To Leave Tighina

AU1106204894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 9/6/1994—Dniester mass media announced a possible withdrawal of the Moldovan police from Tighina (Bender.) Victor Catana, the co-chairman of the Join Control Commission, told BASAPRESS that this is untrue. "Bender is an inseparable part of Moldova and thus the city police is a constitutional organ," he said. According to the [1992] Sn•gur-Yeltsin agreement, the city is declared a zone of high security and, hence, the Moldovan police's presence in Tighina is established by the same agreement, said Catana. According to him, the local administration subordinated to the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic exerts pressure on the police and this results in increased crime. "Regardless of these actions the police will stay in Bender to perform its duty of protecting public order and the rights and interests of the people," concluded Catana.

ALTM Accuses Government of Misinformation on Taxes

AU1006144194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 0445 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 8/6/1994—The current government makes efforts not to allow peasants to take part in land privatization, stated today during a press conference Semion Certan, Alliance of Moldovan Free Peasants [ATLM] chairman. Land privatization is blocked and there are anti-reform forces which neglect the provisions of the Land Code, added Certan. According to him, "the peasants are deliberately misinformed on the manner of taxation; the legislation on registering farms is ignored, while the preferential and foreign credits do not reach their beneficiaries in fair portions. Often they are distributed to collective farms." Ilie Untila, deputy chairman of the Alliance, stated to reporters that in many villages peasants cannot receive their plots of land; those who received their share of land did not receive their share of inventory. Contrary to the legislation, the peasants are forced to pay the taxes in kind. Thus, today, in Hajdieni, Glodeni, the district leadership met with the peasants to convince the latter to pay taxes in kind.

Vice Premier Discusses Agricultural Prospects

AU1006154394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 0445 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 8/6/1994—The land reform is not a panacea for the crisis faced by the Moldovan agriculture, stated to the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA (Indepe. lent Moldova), Moldovan Vice Premier Valeriu Bulg.ri. Bulgari called the destruction of the current form... of Agricultural enterprises technological regression. Without the necessary agricultural equipment and infrastructure, small farms will go bankrupt. He also mentioned that advanced technologies need huge investments. Businessmen from abroad expect that Moldova will achieve a political and economic stability and set taxes at the level of the European ones or even lower. Moldova has no choice but to cooperate with the ex-Soviet republics and Eastern European countries. "By founding the Economic Union (EU), I think that all problems will be solved on the basis of the equal rights; the EU statute is favorable for Moldova." Bulgari added that Moldova has chances to reconquer some of its lost positions on the Russian market as the excises on goods from the West, which made Moldovan wine uncompetitive, will soon go up because Russia, as an EU leader, will intensify the measures of protecting its market and producers. The protection of the internal markets of the EU member states must constitute a large-scale strategy, promoted by all members of this community, said Bulgari.

Kazakhstan

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on PRC Nuclear Test

LD1106102994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0400 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The Kazakh Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in connection with the underground nuclear test carried out by the PRC at Lop-Nor test site on 10 June. It says: Kazakhstan is persistent in its policy of banning nuclear tests and signing relevant agreements. President Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed heads of nuclear states in August 1993 with a proposal to extend a moratorium on tests of weapons of mass destruction till the year 2005. During his visit in October 1993 to the PRC he held talks with the Chinese leadership. He briefed the Chinese leadership on Kazakhstan's stance with regard to nuclear tests.

Kazakhstan has approved a declaration made by the PRC's Foreign Ministry that said China understands concern of non-nuclear states regarding nuclear tests. The foreign ministry notes that the last test in China was carried out during [words indistinct] of moratorium on nuclear tests. The statement says: It worries us this test was carried out in the neigboring state and might cause serious problems in ecology and (?people's health). The Kazakh Foreign Ministry believes it is necessary to resume the discussion of the specific proposals by Kazakhstan on setting up a joint group of experts on the problems of Semipalatinsk and Lop-Nor test sites.

Nazarbayev Holds Talks With Estonian President

LD1006175194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by KAZTAG-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Almaty 10 June TASS—President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev held talks on Friday [10 Jun] with the Estonian delegation headed by President Lennart Meri who came on a working visit to Almaty.

When discussing various aspects of foreign policy both sides expressed identity or closeness of positions and views in all issues.

Specifically, the Estonian president said that he liked Nursultan Nazarbayev's idea of establishing a Eurasian alliance as it is based on democratic principles inherent in the European Union which has been functioning successfully for a long time.

The talks ended by the signing of a treaty on mutual understanding and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Estonia, an agreement on cooperation between Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

On 12 June the Estonian delegation is due to leave Almaty for the People's Republic of China.

Comment on EAU, Russian Ties

LD1006164094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Nazarbayev meeting Friday [10 Jun] in Alma Ata [Almaty] with the visiting Estonian President Lennart Meri said that the creation of a Euro-Asian union (EAU) does not envisage the restoration of the former Soviet Union. He said there are such fears since some politicians support the idea in their statements. This would be a great tragedy and would bring about great troubles and more bloodshed.

Nazarbayev said that the EAU provides for civilized relations with the non-members. The Union is open for membership of not solely members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The president said that China showed a keen interests to the idea.

For his part, Lennart Meri said that Estonia was interested in the fact that prevailing on the Euro-Asian mainland would be the principles of the democratic development and any threats to regional clashes be removed. Proceeding from these positions, the Estonian leader said that he warmly welcomes the idea by President Nazarbayev about the creation of a Euro-Asian Union.

According to Meri, Estonia would not like to fence itself from Russia and was prepared to develop the relations. He noted there are also problems in relationships with the Russian Federation, to which the president attributed the presence of 2500 servicemen of the former Soviet Army on the Estonian territory. Meri hopes, however, that the problem would be solved. He said that 31 August when the former Soviet troops leave Estonia, Germany and other countries, would an [as received] important European event.

Saudabayev Meets Foreign Officials in Istanbul

LD1006173594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Kazakh Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, who is participating in the conference of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in Istanbul, met President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd today. They discussed bilateral relations, and topical international and regional problems. Also today, Kanat Saudabayev received James Collins, the U.S. Ambassador-at-large for the CIS. A frank and detailed conversation was held on issues of mutual interest.

Report on Nazarbayev Address to Supreme Council

LD1006171594 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1430 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Almaty, 9 Jun—President Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed this morning's Supreme Council session. The president spoke about of ways of strengthening Kazakhstan's statehood, and its domestic and foreign policy for the near and distant future.

Touching upon the causes that led to the current situation in the Republic, which is characterized mainly by negative processes and instability, economic crisis, decline in production, and growing inflation, the head of state then continued to dwell upon the best ways of developing market reforms and democratizing society. This path has been deliberately chosen by the people. We should focus our attention on monetary and credit policy and bank reforms, and should take into account the needs of a sovereign state and of the market economy. Its main task is to combat the galloping inflation and strengthen the national currency. "We should," the president said, "strengthen financial discipline both in the budget and in the sphere of activities of banks and enterprises. Otherwise, it will result in uncontrolled hyperinflation, the last [words indistinct]."

He thinks that all the country's spending, except for the most important, should be cut down—such as allocations for paying wages, pensions, and social benefits [words indistinct]. Limited credits should be granted only under efficient programs and projects. Enterprises operating in the red should be made bankrupt in the near future. All benefits with regard to taxes and dues should be cancelled. The government should not pay any dubious debts and nonpayments of enterprises and banks, and minimize spending on maintenance of the state bodies.

Along with this [words indistinct] of the major foreign investors to participate in reforming the basic branches by means of holding international tenders. Prices should be released for all types of goods and services, including bread prices. The low income families would be paid the difference. The Finance Ministry should exercise tough control over the revenue and expenditure parts of the budget. Any kind of lobbying should be excluded. The National Bank should be freed from supervision by the legislative and executive bodies, [word indistinct] aimed at stabilizing the tenge.

"It will not be easy," the president said, "a great number of enterprises will come to a standstill, the number of unemployed will increase, as well as a number of unhappy people, who will call for demonstrations and blame [words indistinct]. We will have to withstand all this. There in no turning back."

In addition to all these, we will have to address new issues in the area of privatization and developing the private sector and competition, he said. We should encourage production and labor [as received] and create an efficient and powerful mechanism for social protection of the population. Legal reform should support economic reforms.

Of great importance is the creation of [words indistinct], the atmosphere of stability in the Republic, and national and civil accord. If we do not achieve all this "then we will be on the verge of disaster." In connection with this, the head of state [words indistinct] "those who are trying to rub people the wrong way, disrupt national accord and civil peace, should bear responsibility for this in strict compliance with the law of our country." He criticized [word indistinct] approach to migration processes, which have to be studied and managed so as not loose a skilled and active part of the population, and suggested adoption of a new law on languages and to abandon discrimination of the Russian language. [passage indistinct]

Nazarbayev paid a good deal of attention to the issues of citizenship. He reminded of the decree that was adopted this year in February on making amends to the relevant decree on simplifying the procedure for acquiring citizenship and reducing the time needed for this. Apart from this, a memorandum on citizenship was signed at the end of March during the visit to the Russian Federation by the head of our state. Now, "the settlement of this issue depends on Kazakhstan and Russian parliamentarians," Kazakhstan is unique in terms of the number of ethnic groups that are living here. The president said that a unique cultural space exists in Kazakhstan—Russians and Kazakhs being the main groups. Therefore, we should pay equal attention to the development of the two but, at the same time, we should not ignore the others. According to Nazarbayev, we can achieve this if only "a legal basis is [words indistinct] for the development of culture. We should eradicate race discrimination and create equal opportunities for all Kazakhstanis."

The leader of Kazakhstan urged parliamentarians to adopt a package of documents that will take into consideration the interests of every ethnic group and national interests. Only by doing this can we strengthen and build interethnic accord and ensure civil peace.

Nazarbayev put forward a number of other proposals aimed at achieving consensus between [words indistinct]. Two of them exclude each other. "All parties, movements, and mass media should reach an accord on strengthening peace, friendship, and stability in the Republic, especially at this difficult transitional time, and second, to legalize and introduce tough sanctions against those who encroach on sociopolitical stability, be it citizens, political, public movements, or the mass media." According to the president the first one is more advantageous.

The president also spoke about the Euroasian union, further reforms in legal, executive, and juridical branches of power, deepening market reforms, cutting inflation, and raising the living standards of people. He

also spoke in favor of the two-chamber parliament that will oust the discredited practice of adopting laws. Nazarbayev thinks that it is necessary to carry out comprehensive reforms in the Judicial Branch of power already this year. In particular, he thinks that it is necessary to abandon the division between arbitrate courts and [word indistinct], to legalize the principles of unchangeability of judges, and to introduce the norms [word indistinct].

With regard to the recent Supreme Council session which expressed a vote of no-confidence in the socioeconomic and legal policies of the government, the head of state urged parliamentarians not to rush [passage indistinct] At the same time, we should exercise tough control over its activities, and if need be we should render it relevant support and correct its mistakes.

Authorities Concerned Over Future of Baykonur Cosmodrome

LD1006142894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty] 10 June TASS—The municipal council of Leninsk, a satallite town of the Baykonur cosmodrome, is concerned over the future of this rocket-launching complex. The Kazakh newspaper EKSPRESS-K reports that the council had backed the appeal of a group of its members to the Kazakh Supreme Soviet, expressing alarmed in connection with the absence of a mechanism to implement the Kazakh-Russian agreement on the main principles and terms for the use of the cosmodrome.

A resolution, adopted in this connection, notes that the slowness of the governments of the two countries in implementing the achieved agreements places the population of the town in a very difficult predicament. The financing of its infrastructure was slashed. People were virtually freezing in the production premises and in their apartments last winter. The cosmodrome facilities could not be used, because this is not allowed during very cold periods.

The session's resolution was forwarded to corresponding committees and commissions of the Kazakh and Russian Parliaments.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Urges Strengthening of State Power

LD1306112194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] President Askar Akayev intends to strengthen state power in Kyrgyzstan. He said so at Monday's conference with the heads of local government bodies.

This does not mean a change in the general political course, he explained. According to him, some provisions and concepts adopted earlier are untenable and illusory, and the real developments in the country's political and economic life make it necessary to alter objectives.

He continues to be in favor of democracy, Akayev pointed out, but real life has proved that democratic methods are ineffective, that they hinder the endeavors to reach tangible results on the road to reforms.

Under the circumstances a strong state power has no alternative, since "The people are not prepared for democracy," Akayev stressed.

He will resolutely dismiss those people who will hinder the implementation of government resolutions or stand in the way of carrying out the program for economic restructuring to be accomplished in the next three years.

On the other hand, Akayev noted that "we could establish an authoritarian regime, as other CIS states did, the more so as many want it, but this will be unproductive."

The passion for parliamentarianism in Kyrgyzstan has led to the fact that the Supreme Council engaged in politically-motivated criminal investigations, not in normal legislative activity, taking up the duties of the national security committee, Interior Ministry and courts of justice, which scared the potential investors away.

"Many people in Kyrgyzstan viewed parliament as the apotheosis of democracy," Akayev stressed. "In the meantime the activity of the present legislature hinders the country's movement on the road of reforms and creates the reputation of a scandalous country for Kyrgyzstan."

Gives Reasons for Slow Economic Progress

LD1106154594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] On Saturday [11 June] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said Kyrgyzstan was doomed to remain a long time yet on the sidelines of economic progress. Akayev was speaking at a conference at the Slavic University, in Bishkek.

In Akayev's view, the republic's geopolitical position did it little credit. Kyrgyzstan was a land-locked Republic and lacked other trade communications. Very soon, he said, the republic would depend on its neighbors and especially on Russia because economically developed nations felt Central Asia as a whole, including Kyrgyzstan, lay in a zone of their interests.

But, Akayev said, the Republic's industrial potential failed to call for serious foreign investment because Kyrgyzstan was unable to save its industrial infrastructure. And that was why, he said, the government had to discontinue the production of many items.

According to Akayev, political instability and the absence of government guarantees impeded foreign investment in the Kyrgyz economy. So, he said, Kyrgyzstan would be unlikely to build up its international rating in the next 10 to 15 years.

Calls Russian 'Exodus' 'Catastrophe'

LD1206152794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] President Askar Akayev said in Bishkek that the Russian exodus from Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] spelt catastrophe for both his republic and Russia, which was unable to give roof to many thousands of its sons and daughters.

Akayev explained the emigration of ethnic Russians from Kirghizia by the imperfection of the local economic reform which cause a slump in the living standards and overall disillusionment.

According to Akayev, 918,000 ethnic Russians lived in Kirghizia back in 1990. They accounted for 21.2 percent of the Republic's overall population. As of 1 April 1994, though, there were some 750,000 ethnic Russians in Kirghizia. They made up 17 percent of the overall population. In four years, Akayev said, 170,000 Russians had left Kirghizia. That inflicted irreparable damages on the Kirghiz economy.

Akayev agreed that the social and political problems, for example the introduction of Kirghiz as the Republic's official language, were largely to blame for the wave of emigration. And, Akayev said, Russian-speaking entrepreneurs stood little chance in Kirghizia, and discrimination against ethnic Russians was, indeed, a fact of everyday life.

Akayev Sends Greetings to Russian President

LD1206120894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] President Akayev has sent a message of greetings to Russian President Yeltsin. Akayev congratulated Yeltsin on the occasion of the anniversary of the declaration of independence and stressed that Russia is, will, and should be Kyrgyzstan's main partner. Akayev also expressed his gratitude to Yeltsin for an interest free credit of 400 million rubles which has been granted to Kyrgyzstan's Chu Oblast by Moscow Oblast. Moscow oblast is now celebrating festival days. The festival will contribute to further strengthening of fraternal ties between the two countries.

NATO Chief of Staff Gives News Conference in Bishkek

LD1106153394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek 11 June TASS—Political stability is our goal, Peter Carstens, supreme headquarters allied powers [as received], Europe told a news conference in the capital of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] on Saturday [11 June]. The official delegation of the North Atlantic Organization headed by him has been in Kirghizia for three days. It is the first visit of NATO officers to the country after the recent signing by President Askar Akayev of the Partnership for Peace programme in Brussels.

We are only beginning to establish cooperation with Kirghizia, General Carstens said at meetings with President Askar Akayev, Defence Minister General Myrzakan Subanov. We were looking for points of contact and ways of understanding. The first stage of our work is political consultations, assistance in training officers. But the principle thing is the expanding of security zone, cooperation and the drawing of a larger possible number of countries into peace-keeping activity.

Although for keeping peace and stability NATO troops are ready for combat actions. But, the general stressed, it will be done under the aegis of the United Nations organization and with the international community's mandate.

The Tajikistan problem was touched at the news conference. General Carstens maintains this problems is the CIS internal affair and states NATO is not planning peace-keeping operations in central Asia, nor the setting up of a NATO military base in Kirghizia.

As to strategic competition with Russia, the NATO chief of staff said relations between the North Atlantic Organization and the Russian Federation are developing on a positive plane. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's statement made in Istanbul is a manifestation of his country's intention to join the NATO Partnership for Peace programme.

The NATO delegation saw a military unit and a testing range near the capital of Kirghizia and on Monday [13 June] intends to leave Bishkek.

Government Adopts Resolution on Gold Project

LD1106090494 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] The Kyrgyz Government has adopted a resolution on approving a feasibility study report, amendments and changes to the general agreement on the Kumtor-Gold project. The resolution says that the legality and the validity of every document, which is mentioned by the above resolution complies with Kyrgyzstan's legislation both in terms of its conditions, provisions and legal powers of those, who have signed each of these documents: on behalf of the government of the Republic—the state concern "Kyrgyz-Altyn" [gold], the Kumtor-Gold company, the Kumtor-Mounting company, and the Kumtor Operation company.

In accordance with this resolution, each side is granted all powers and [word indistinct] benefits, which are envisaged by the legislation of Kyrgyzstan and documents of the Kumtor-Gold project. State bodies, organizations, enterprises, and officials should take all the nessessary steps so as to implement provisions of the document and render comprehensive support and assistance in the implementation of the Kumtor-Gold project in accordance with the relevant documents. The abovementioned resolution, will operate during the time of the Kumtor-Gold project's work.

Republican ministries, state committees and departments should ensure proper control over activities of the joint venture Kumtor in accordance with a procedure, which is stipulated by Kyrgyzstan's existing legislation. The resolution is signed by Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov.

'Epidemiological State of Emergency' Declared in Bishkek

LD1106153194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] An "epidemiological state of emergency" has been declared in Bishkek, Kirghizia's [Kyrgyzstan] capital. According to the Russian News Agency this measure has been taken in connection with the fact that there has been a considerable increase in the incidence of dysentery and typhoid fever in that city. Until further instructions, all markets and bazaars in Bishkek are being closed where public health requirements are not being complied with.

Tajikistan

Russian Army in Dushanbe Appeals for Weapons' Surrender

LD1006163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow 10 June TASS—As a result of round-the-clock joint patrolling of streets in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, by the Republic's security, the Interior and Defence Ministry, as well as deployed there Russian military contingent units, over 30 firearms were confisticated, military sources in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS today.

As reported earlier, with the aim of stabilizing the situation in the Tajik capital, a decision was adopted at a session of the Coordination Council of the republic's law enforcement bodies on 6 June to take additional measures for fighting against crimes. The Russian 201 Army Division has set up posts, which are being jointly manned with police bodies. A mobile radio station is broadcasting the Russian division command's appeal to residents of the city to voluntarily surrender illegal arms in their possession. Pamphlets carrying text of the appeal are being distributed in the capital. The patrols have sweeping powers, including carrying out search of all types of vehicles, checking documents in possession of the citizens and confiscating illegally kept arms. Areas, where Russian servicemen and members of their families live, are being kept under special guard.

It became known today that an attempt was made to attack the car of the 201st Divison commander during the evening checking of the posts on 7 June. The attacker was disarmed as a result of daring decisive action taken by driver Private Salavat Galimov. The would-be assassin, identified as Nazar Khoitov, born in 1967, was handed over to police.

Russian Military: Tension Likely To Mount on Border

LD1206153694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] On 20 June the Dushanbe government and opposition may be expected to resume negotiations in Tehran and that, according to the Commander in chief of Russia's border troops Andrey Nikolayev, will likely escalate tension on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border.

Practice showed, Nikolayev said, that in the runup to, and during, the negotiations the opposition would try to do a bit of muscle-flexing and put pressure on Dushanbe. In addition, he said, the opposition's negotiating team might fail to control, in full measure, the opposition's field commanders. A third force could instigate fighting and he who paid, Nikolayev said, would want an interest on his investment.

Nikolayev withheld his view of the possibility of agreement between the opposition and those who were holding power in Dushanbe. He said, nonetheless, that agreement was possible if both sides came to put the people's interests above their own.

Nikolayev admitted that Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan failed to meet, in full measure, their pledge to protect Tajikistan's external border.

Afghanistan Border Situation Remains Tense

LD1306095794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow 13 June TASS—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remained tense this weekend. An armed band made an attempt to cross into Tajikistan from Afghanistan on the third sector outpost of the Pyandzh frontier guard detachment on Sunday evening, Russian frontier guard press bureau informed ITAR-TASS today.

Meeting a decisive rebuff, the violators disappeared without an armed confrontation with frontier guards.

One day ago the third outpost of the Khorg frontier guard detachment came under automatic fire from Tajik territory. Russian frontier guards returned the fire. No casualties were reported among frontier guards.

India To Grant Loan as Part of Cooperation Agreement

LD1106121394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0701 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Report by TIA correspondent Konstantin Parshin for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 11 Jun—Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid announced today that India will grant Tajikustan a 10-year loan worth $5 million in accordance with a program of mutually advantageous coperation and with a whole range of documents that were signed yesterday evening. Of this money, 85 percent will go toward implementing joint Tajik- Indian projects in the areas of enterprise and industrial installation construction, while the remainder will be used for acquiring medical equipment.

Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov said at a press conference that was devoted to the visit by the Indian minister and a delegation of Indian entrepreneurs accompanying him, that relations between the two countries were entering a new stage. The fact that a plenipotentiary ambassador of India to Tajikistan would be appointed in Dushanbe in the near future was yet more proof of this.

Rakhmonov, India's Minister Khurshid Discuss Cooperation

LD1106110494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan yesterday received Salman Khurshid, India's minister of state for external affairs who has arrived in our country.

In the course of the friendly conversation it was pointed out that the new possibilities have appeared for cooperation in various spheres of economy and culture after the visit of the government delegation of Tajikistan to India in the past year.

Rakhmonov stated that Tajikistan intends to develop direct relations with friendly India. [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Turkmenistan

President Fines Officials for Negligence in Fires

MK1006115394 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Mekhman Gafarly: "Niyazov Fines a Number of Republic's Leaders"]

[Text] Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] President Saparmurat Niyazov has by special edict imposed fines equivalent to three monthly salaries on the minister of internal affairs, the general prosecutor, the chairman of the National Security Committee, and the chief of the Republic's Border Guard Troops Directorate, as well as on the leaders of two rayons. All of them failed to take measures to prevent the fires in the Ashkhabadskiy and Gyaurskiy rayons, which have done considerable damage to the environment. The blaze started on 5 June and mainly engulfed the border zone. A separate decree has dismissed Nurmukhamed Ashirov, minister for the use and protection of the natural environment, and his deputy for the same reason.

The money will be transmitted to a special account to be opened by the Republic president's staff with the AKB "Turkmenistan" bank. In the future all fines for ecological crimes in the Republic will come to this account.

Parliament Speaker Arrives in Tehran for 3-Day Visit

LD1106192394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1845 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran 11 June TASS—A Turkmen parliamentary delegation led by Parliament Speaker Sakhat Muradov arrived in Iran on a three-day visit on Saturday [11 June].

Meeting journalists at Tehran's airport upon his arrival, Muradov said that Iran and Turkmenistan have "very good" relations and called for their development, including between the parliaments of the two countries.

Iranian Parliament Chairman 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri welcomed Muradov's visit as useful for stepping up the implementation of previous bilateral agreements.

Muradov and Nateq-Nuri will discuss among other things the construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Europe via Iran. The agreement to this effect was reached earlier and confirmed by the Iranian and Turkmen presidents during their one-day meeting in the Iranian city of Mehrabad in late May.

Uzbekistan

President Receives Muslim Leader on Return From Hajj

LD1106101994 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Excerpts] On 10 June, Uzbek President Islam Karimov, on the occasion of the return of the pilgrims from the holy pilgrimage of hajj, received Abdulghani Abdullayev, chairman of the Committee for Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic and Mufti Mukhtarkhan Abdullayev, head of the spiritual board of

the Muslims of Transoxania [place name as heard]. Karimov congratulated the pilgrims on their successful hajj. [passage omitted]

There is no point in hiding that there are forces who speak badly of our independence. It is from here that we must make the people understand the successes of independence. [words indistinct] The participants of the meeting expressed their gratitude to the president on behalf of all the pilgrims for the financial assistance and the special flights made available for them. [passage omitted]

I can recall very well, said Karimov, that during the Communist Party's rule it was difficult for the people even to visit the (mosque) and for women to use headscarves when [words indistinct]. Thanks to independence all [words indistinct] but still unfortunately there are those who do not appreciate these opportunities [words indistinct].

Deputy Prime Minister Relieved of Post

LD1106112694 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] In line with the decree of President Islam Karimov, Anatoliy Voznenko has been relieved from the post of deputy prime minister [title as recieved] due to his transfer to another job. (?Nazirbek Rustambekich) Rustambekov has been relieved from the post of chairman of the state committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for science and technology due to his transfer to another job.

Tashkent's Gas Stations To Be Privatized

LD1006112994 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0530 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] The Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decision on privatizing gasoline stations in Tashkent city. During 1994 five working gas stations and four still in the draft stage or under construction in Tashkent city will be privatized. The Republic's Committee for State Property, the Uzbek petroleum products association, and the Tashkent city mayors office [Hakimiyat] have been instructed to offer the gas stations for sale by auction as private property to physical and legal persons including foreigners on the basis of competition. Long leases should be issued for the land occupied by the privatized gas stations in line with existing legislation.

The owners of the privatized gas stations can sell imported raw material and petroleum products from outside Uzbekistan at their gas stations.

The full text of the decree will be published in the press.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Grachev Reach Base Agreement

LD1006160894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reached a principal agreement on establishment of a Russian military base on Armenian territory during their talks in Yerevan.

Grachev told journalists on Thursday that the base would be situated in two cities - Gyumri and Yerevan and would represent a potent group of troops, including not only infantry but also air defense units, all types of air forces, except for the distant ones, and supply units.

The group of troops is expected to be so that it could be brought to any of threatened directions and to conduct military actions for a certain period of time until the main forces come, Grachev said.

Grachev emphasized that the final decision on establishment of the Russian military base would be made by the Russian and Armenian presidents.

Ter-Petrosyan and Grachev also discussed creation of a single air defense system for the two countries. Grachev said that additional air defense units would be brought to Armenia in order to "cover some directions where he can carry out no surveillance over the air space." These would be surface-to-air missile forces and a squadron of interceptor jets.

Grachev pointed out that all these issues were expected to be resolved in June or July so that the establishment of the Russian military base in Armenia be completed in August.

In accordance with the achieved agreement, the Armenian party will take active part in the financing of the Russian military base. Grachev stressed that Russian would pay no rent for this base. He added that establishment of Russian military bases on Armenian and Georgian territory would be carried out according to the will of the leadership of these republics.

Reliable sources told Interfax that the Russian party had proposed that it lease the newly established base during 25 years with further extension of this term on the basis of an agreement between Moscow and Yerevan.

Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sarkisyan believes that the Armenian parliament will ratify the Russian-Armenian inter- governmental agreement on the status of Russian troops in the republic. IF Note: This agreement was signed in 19992 and ratified by the former Russian parliament in February, 1993.

Sarkisyan said in an exclusive interview with Interfax that the Armenian leadership did not demand Russia to pay for leasing the base and for public utilities. He added that Yerevan, in its turn, wanted Armenian citizens to receive education in Russian military colleges for free. Some Armenian servicemen may serve on the Russian military bases which are expected to be created in Armenia.

Grachev Optimistic About Results of Visit

NC1206181594 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1435 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 06/11/94—"We solved the problems we were to solve", said Russian Defense Minister, Army General Pavel Grachev, summarizing on his visit to Armenia.

He left for Tbilisi on Friday. "I am leaving with very high mood", declared Grachev. "All military problems we planned, found a positive solution and were approved by the Armenian President". The problem of creating Russian military bases has also been resolved. These will be created by August 1, and displaced in Gyumri and Yerevan.

"Armenia lives, I saw people smiling", he continued. Speaking on his impressions, the Russian General said he was amazed by training of internal troops in Armenia, by the attitude to his work and by the stance.

Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sargsyan expressed his contentment about Pavel Grachev's visit. "This was very important and serious visit, and its main results will be stationing of Russian military bases in Armenia, improving the potential of republican anti-air defense and Russian troops displaced here." According to the Minister, Russian troops will be reinforced by helicopters and airplanes.

Going in details on creating the Russian military bases in Armenia Serzh Sargsyan noted, this problem has been completely resolved. "There are no unclear points left in the agreement about the bases," he said. This agreement will be signed and affirmed in summer, "and then we'll start its implementation."

Speaking on leasing land for the Russian bases the minister said, the Armenian side is ready to resolve these problems in a mutually advantageous manner. This can be paid back by training Armenian specialists in Russian military higher education centers, by providing free communal services to Russian troops stationed in Armenia or otherwise, said Serzh Sargsyan. On his opinion, Russian military bases will be created in Armenia by September 1. Concerning the length of the agreement to be signed he said that Armenia would like this agreement to be eternal.

In his turn, Russian Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin said, Pavel Grachev's visit to Armenia was an important political event, concerning not only military

aspects. "This visit was very important for improving our alliance with Armenia both within the framework of the CIS collective security agreement and on bilateral basis," said the Ambassador.

According to Russian "Novosti" TV program Grachev visited Baku on June 11 and negotiated with the President Geydar Aliyev about stationing a radio-location station near Gyanja.

Speaking on the TV Russian Defense Minister said, "both sides are accumulating forces at the borders, and therefore there is still a long way before introduction of peace-making forces."

Russian Delegation Arrives in Gyumri

NC1006141094 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0727 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("YERKIR" daily - Haylour), 06/10/94—Official delegation of the Russian Defense Ministry, headed by the Chairman of the Operative Department General-Colonel V. Varennikov visited Gyumri on June 9.

During a short interview in the airport Varennikov said, the goal of the visit is to resolve several organizational problems related with stationing of Russian units.

General-Colonel noted that on the very first day of the visit P. Grachev discussed the Russian project on peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem with the President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who positively evaluated the plan. "In fact, L. Ter-Petrosyan accepted all our proposals", he stressed.

The delegation returned to Yerevan on the same day.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Possible Russian Military Presence

LD1006163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev believes that settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict cannot be carried out without introduction of the separating forces to the conflict zone. However, the Azerbaijani leader stressed in an interview with Interfax that this military contingent must have the CSCE mandate. Aliyev admitted that Russian troops could participate in the peacekeeping action, however, they must also bear the CSCE sign.

Aliyev underlined that his position on the conflict remained the same, seeking a peaceful political solution to the issue. "The war must be halted since it has no perspectives both for Azerbaijan and Armenia," Aliyev pointed out. He was certain that settlement must be carried out on a fair basis, this is to say on the basis of Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of the borders and taking into consideration the generally recognized international standards.

Aliyev emphasized poor efficiency of the two-year efforts put by the Minsk group on settlement in Karabakh. However, he said he was interested that the talks be held right within the scope of the Minsk group (which includes Russia with its independent peacekeeping initiatives).

Aliyev recognized Russia's special role. He suggested that Russia was interested in the Caucasian region more than any other state. The consultations which the Azerbaijani leadership has conducted with Russia and the Minsk group prove the value of parallel mediation by the CSCE, Russia and the CIS in settlement of the conflict, Aliyev underlined.

Speaking on possible direct talks with the leaders of the self- proclaimed Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Aliyev said, "In what concerns this, I have many plans in my head. Something may be carried out along."

Commenting on possible participation of the Azerbaijani military contingent in the peacekeeping action in Abkhazia, Aliyev stressed, "In principle, I stand against introduction of troops of one country to the territory of another one. However, taking into account the persistent requests made by Eduard Shevardnadze and the Abkhazian party, we gave our consent. We regard the issue with understanding. However, as far as I know, only Russian troops will act there."

Aliyev Comments on Visit to Turkey

NC1006211294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 10 Jun 94

[From the "Special Newscast"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent Seyyat Agbabali] During his brief working visit to Turkey, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev met with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, foreign ministers of a number of foreign countries, and other officials. Dear listeners, you will see a detailed report on this visit later. On our special program we bring to your attention Aliyev's news briefing in Istanbul on his visit.

[Aliyev] I came to Istanbul, Turkey, for a brief working visit at the invitation of the esteemed Suleyman Demirel. I am now returning to Baku, Azerbaijan. Meetings of very great importance Azerbaijan have taken place here. One reason for my arrival here at the invitation of our esteemed friend and brother Suleyman Demirel was to hold talks and consultations and put forward certain proposals regarding accelerating the development of ties between Turkey and Azerbaijan. For

this purpose, we held detailed and lengthy talks yesterday with the Turkish president, esteemed Suleyman Demirel, and we discussed all the issues of interest to Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Today I met the Turkish prime minister, esteemed Tansu Ciller, and the deputy prime minister, esteemed Murat Karayalcin. We discussed the development of friendly and fraternal ties between Turkey and Azerbaijan and speeding up the solution of certain matters. We reached agreement on many issues. This was the main purpose of my visit, and as such I am very satisfied with my visit here.

Of course, during our meetings with esteemed Suleyman Demirel, Tansu Ciller, and Murat Karayalcin and during our brief meeting with esteemed Hikmet Cetin we also discussed the present situation in Azerbaijan, particularly the ongoing war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, and the ways to solve this problem.

It is known to the world that the Azerbaijani side, and myself personally, favor the peaceful resolution of this problem. That is, we favor ending the war, halting the fighting, and peacefully resolving this problem. We have put forward some proposals in this direction but, regrettably, achieved nothing.

The Azerbaijani side has very strict conditions for the peaceful resolution of this problem, these being: The Azerbaijani Republic's territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders must be ensured; Armenian Armed Forces must leave the occupied Azerbaijani lands; and the refugees, the Azerbaijani citizens, should be returned to their homes in these occupied lands. We favor a peaceful solution to this problem under these conditions, and to this end we are trying to make use of CSCE, of the CSCE's Minsk Group. And of course, we are also trying to make use of the good offices of the major powers—most of which are members of CSCE—and of the UN and the UN Security Council. We have taken various measures in this direction. Russia, too, is actively involved in this problem. Russia is trying to act as a mediator to peacefully resolve this problem; and recently the CSCE Minsk Group and its chairman Jan Eliasson has agreed that Russia should have a special role in this endeavor. Minsk Group also (?consented) that CIS too should get involved in this matter.

We are working within these parameters. I met with the foreign ministers of a number of Western countries yesterday and today. [passage omitted]

I think that our contacts were very beneficial and important. Azerbaijan once again reiterated its position at these meetings, and asked these major states, the European states, to take part in this process. In turn, the foreign ministers of these counties said that they favor the resolution of this problem exclusively within the CSCE framework—through the Minsk Group—and told me that they will be more active in this direction in the future. [passage omitted]

[Agbabali] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev was seen off at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport by Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Murat Karayalcin, Istanbul Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu, and other officials.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev was welcomed at Baku's Bina Airport by the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev, Prime Minister Suret Guseynov, and other officials.

Aliyev Meets Russia's Grachev, Seeks Military Ties

LD1106131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Mikhail Shevtsov, and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 11 Jun—Talks between the Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev are being held here today with the participation of experts on both sides.

In a press statement Aliyev stressed the importance of the meeting and noted in particular the friendly character of relations between the two neighboring states. Of late, he said, many steps have been taken to successfully develop and strengthen these relations. Nevertheless, a broadening of cooperation in Aliyev's view requires closer contacts, including closer military contacts. The interests of strengthening the security of both Azerbaijan and Russia require this. He took the opportunity to ask Pavel Grachev to convey the most cordial greetings to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian people on their Independence Day and wished them happiness, prosperity, and success on the path of building a democratic society.

Grachev also advocated the organization of multifaceted cooperation between the two countries and raising it to a higher level. In this matter, he stated, Azerbaijan will always meet with full understanding on Russia's part. The Russian minister said that his trip to Azerbaijan was a familiarization and working visit. He expressed confidence that the discussion of the planned issues would be successful.

Grachev Comments on Talks

LD1106153294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Mikhail Shevtsov and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 11 Jun—The Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has said that his talks today with Geydar Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, were "successful." Commenting after the meeting on its outcome the head of the Russian defense department said that the main attention had been focused on two purely military matters.

The first matter concerned the future of the Gabala [Gabelinskaya] missile attack warning station, a large installation in northern Azerbaijan that was previously under the control of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union. Pavel Grachev said that on this matter he had met with full understanding on the part of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev that this station is of strategic importance not only for Russia and Azerbaijan but also for other CIS countries and the states of the whole world. Grachev stated that experts have been given the task of studying this matter very quickly so that an agreement can be signed on the operation of the installation.

The Russian delegation also put forward for consideration by the Azerbaijani side a proposal to create a single air defense system in the Transcaucasus. This proposal had been discussed earlier at talks between Armenia and Georgia, and had been accepted by those countries. The head of the Russian defense department said that Geydar Aliyev welcomed the idea, and had instructed the Azerbaijani defense minister to look into this question. Grachev said he hoped for a positive solution. In any case, even if Azerbaijan does not give us a positive answer, we will build a single air defense system in the Transcaucasus, with the participation of Russia, Armenia, and Georgia,—the Russian minister underlined.

Speaking of the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Grachev said that he had learned a lot in a one-to-one conversation with Geydar Aliyev. The Russian minister said he would brief in detail President Yeltsin on his return to Moscow. Grachev said he had learned two important things from this conversation. The first one relates to the influence of the internal political situation in Azerbaijan on the conflict there. The second, according to the minister, is that no narrow or departmental agreement on the cease- fire and on stopping the military action would have a positive effect until a comprehensive political treaty between Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia on settling this problem has been signed. Such a document is now being developed by the Foreign Ministry and other departments, he said, speaking of this issue.

At present, Azerbaijan and Armenia on the whole are observing the cease-fire agreement, Grachev said. However, according to his information, each of the sides was building up its forces and this could lead to a resumption of military actions. At the same time, the minister gave assurances that Russia, as mediator, was monitoring the situation in the conflict zone.

Grachev said that the question of introducing Russian peacekeeping forces into the region had not been discussed at the meeting.

It has become known that the Russian defense minister and those accompanying him will return to Moscow this evening.

Discuss Gabala Radar

NC1106190094 Baku TURAN in English 1835 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 11 (TURAN)—Today Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev has met Russia Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who is in Baku at Aliyev's invitation. Geydar Aliyev noted that "such meeting is necessary because Azerbaijan and Russia are neighbours and friendly countries". He noted that in order to make the cooperation more successful both countries need further contacts "including military contacts for strengthening Russia's and Azerbaijan's security".

The President noted that the question about the biggest military object in Transcaucasia—Gabala radio-location station situated in Azerbaijan remains unsolved. "The station belongs to Azerbaijan and we should discuss the terms of its usage by Russia", said Aliyev. He noted that there are some other issues of military character to be solved.

Pavel Grachev said that according to the agreement the commandant of Russia's anti-aircraft defense forces Colonel-General Prudnikov and the commandant of Azerbaijan anti-aircraft defense forces Colonel Mamedov will leave for Gabala. On their return they will brief the specialists of both sides in order to carry out common decision on the usage of the object.

"Despite some difficulties in our relations the situation is going to be change. We want that our military relations with Azerbaijan be closer", said Grachev.

Then the meeting was held behind the closed door. As TURAN was told by the informed people accompanying Aliyev, Pavel Grachev proposed Azerbaijan to sign Moscow Protocol from May 17 about the deployment Russia's peacemaking troops into the Armenian-Azeri conflict zone as soon as possible. According to Grachev sending of the troops to the zone of military actions will take place in 2 or 3 days after signing the Protocol.

Concerning the Gabala radio-location station Grachev said that Russia would like to use this object free of charge. At the same time he proposed Azerbaijan to enter the unique anti-aircraft defense system with Russia. He motivated this proposal by the fact that both countries are the members of the Agreement for joint security of CIS countries.

Grachev Departs, Says Talks 'Successful'

LD1106192794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1841 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Mikhail Shevtsov and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku June 11 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev ended his talks with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev on Saturday and left for Moscow.

Grachev described his talks with Aliyev as "successful." The discussion focused on two military issues—the future of the Gabelinskaya missile attack warning station in northern Azerbaijan and the establishment of a united air-defence system in the Trans- Caucasus.

The sides agreed that the station is of strategic importance not only for Russia and Azerbaijan, but also for other CIS states and foreign countries. Experts have been ordered to discuss the question and work out an agreement for signing.

Grachev also called for establishing a common air-defence system in the region. Earlier the idea was supported by Armenia and Georgia. Grachev expressed the hope that Azerbaijan will give a positive answer, adding that if it agrees otherwise, Russia will proceed with building the system in cooperation with Armenia and Georgia.

Speaking about the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Grachev said that he learnt many new things about it from Aliyev, particularly about the impact of the political situation in Azerbaijan on the conflict and that no cease-fire deal can stop the conflict unless a comprehensive political agreement is signed between Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia on conflict settlement.

The minister said he will inform President Boris Yeltsin about the talks, adding that such a document is now being considered by the Russian Foreign Ministry and other concerned agencies.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been observing the cease-fire on the whole, Grachev said. However, according to available information both sides are building up strength in preparations for a new wave of hostilities. At the same time, he noted that Russia as a mediator controls the situation in the region.

He said the deployment of Russian peace-keeping troops in the region was not discussed at the talks.

During his June 8-11 tour, Grachev also visited Armenia, Georgia and Abkhazia.

Official Says No Russian Plans for Military Base

NC1106190794 Baku TURAN in English 1835 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 11 (TURAN)—Today TURAN was told by Helen Agapova, Russian Defense Minister's assistant for public relations, that Russia does not plan to set up military bases at Azerbaijan's territory. According to Agapova, Russia does not intend to obtain the status of military base to Gabala radio-location station as well. "It is a separate radio-technical unit which we want to use ourselves without Azerbaijan and free of charge. But we need Azerbaijan's agreement for that", she said.

General on Russian Commitment to Karabakh Cease-Fire

NC1106192194 Baku TURAN in English 1835 GMT 11 Jun 94

["General Ivanov: Russia Believes that International Forces' Participation in the Settlement of Armenian-Azeri Conflict Will Be Not Effective"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, June 11 (TURAN)—Gennadiy Ivanov, the Pavel Grachev's advisor for military and political problems told journalists that Russia is ready to send to the conflict zone as many troops as it will be necessary. He noted that 1800 military soldiers for this purpose will not be enough.

According to Ivanov, Azerbaijan Defense Minister will leave for Moscow in a few days with relevant authorities to sign the Moscow Protocol from May 17. The protocol provides the deployment of Russian military forces into the conflict zone.

Answering the question of NATO's possible participation in the peacemaking process Ivanov said that Russia follows directions of an Agreement for Joint Security (AJS) of CIS countries and has enough forces to separate the warring parties in Karabakh. According to Ivanov the possibility of Ukraine's participation in peacemaking process is limited "because Kiev had not signed the AJS and military facilities of other CIS members".

Ivanov noted that two weeks ago, addressing in Brussels, Pavel Grachev noted that AJS remains priorial [as received] for Russia as a nonbloc document which permits to act not contradicting to NATO's interests. "Republics of former USSR have to join and our interests should be common. The occupation of the territory of one member of CIS by another membe. Ivanov called "misunderstanding". [quotation marks as received]

Commentary Defends Right to Oil Fields

NC1106082694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Commentary by Seyyad Aghababaly]

[Text] Oil and oil products are important strategic commodities. Naturally, the countries that have rich oil resources attract the world's attention. The question of oil is a matter that concerns the entire world. In fact, a struggle is waged on oil in the international arena. Oil and oil products are imported by many countries. That creates an opportunity for the oil-producing countries to establish their economic balances. Meanwhile, a struggle is waged among the influential countries and companies to influence the oil-producing countries. The matter is better understood if their relations with the Arab states and the war between Iraq and Kuwait, not to mention the interests that were behind that crisis, are considered in depth.

Regarding our Republic's resources, Azerbaijan is not among the leading oil-producing countries in the world. However, its capability of producing an annual 40 million tonnes of oil is an important factor. The special quality of Azerbaijan's oil is also important. The experts have a better idea on that matter.

It is common knowledge that Azerbaijan declared its independence after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. A state of war has existed in the Republic during the past six years. The loss Azerbaijan has suffered totals billions of dollars. Undoubtedly, the enemies of our Republic have been dissatisfied with President Geydar Aliyev's consistent policy and the statement he made some time ago that nothing can force Azerbaijan to abandon its independence. Consequently, Azerbaijan must benefit from its natural resources with each and every opportunity.

It must be noted that several oil companies, such as the British Petroleum Company, Statoil Company, and Amoco, which are among the largest Western companies in the world, are interested in establishing bilateral relations with Azerbaijan and investing in our country's oil industry. Undoubtedly, the large oil companies and the countries they represent, which intend to inject billions of dollars into our economy, want peace and stability to be established in Azerbaijan. Within that framework, the large oil companies may also benefit from the political and economic strength of their respective countries. Azerbaijan can benefit from that in the political, economic, and other fields.

President Geydar Aliyev received the leading officials of the British Petroleum Company and the Statoil Company in Britain in February. He supported the signing of an agreement for a consortium, which will invest $7 billion on the basis of mutual benefits. Aliyev also agreed that the participation of the Pennzoil Company, Amoco, Statoil Company, McDermont Company, Remco Company, and Turkish Oil Company in the consortium will be appropriate. In addition to the $7 billion, a capital of $500,000 can be invested with favorable conditions for Azerbaijan. The benefit all that may create for our Republic will total $118 billion in 30 years. Obviously, real opportunities exist to remove the crisis in Azerbaijan's economy. With a view to realize those opportunities, the Azerbaijan State Oil Company is holding talks with the Western oil companies in Istanbul on the joint exploitation of the Republic's oil resources.

Regarding the status of the Caspian Sea and Russia's participation in the exploitation of the oil resources in that sea, the participation of Russia's Lukov Oil Company in the consortium has been considered. Regarding the exploitation of the Azer and Chirag oil fields, those resources are independent and Azerbaijan's wealth and no country can have a claim on them, including the Russian Federation.

It will be recalled that the Russian minister of fuel and energy signed the intergovernmental agreement that confirmed that the said oil resources belong only to Azerbaijan. The agreement was signed during his recent visit to our Republic. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has disclosed that Russia has not planned to reconsider any matter related to the Caspian Sea's status. Therefore, it can be assumed that our Republic's oil resources, including the Azer and Chirag oil fields, belong only to Azerbaijan and that matters related to them can be resolved only within the framework of our Republic's jurisdiction.

Georgia

Reportage on Russian Defense Minister's Visit

Grachev on Readiness

LD1006111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0922 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 10 Jun—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev says that the peace-keeping mission of the Russian forces in Abkhazia can start immediately, if the conflicting sides agree to this. This will become possible if he receives an agreement from the Tbilisi and Gudauta leaders, with whom he will hold consultations throughout today.

In the first part of the day Grachev discussed this possibility with Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, in Tbilisi, and in the afternoon he will hold similar talks with Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, in Gudauta.

Incidentally, the minister added that the airborne regiment of the Russian Armed Forces, which is stationed in Gudauta and which has been officially included in the composition of the CIS peace- keeping forces, can be brought in for the beginning of the peace- keeping mission. This decision will be in keeping with the latest well-known edict by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on rendering assistance in settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, and at the same time it does not run contrary to the decision of the Federation Council, which for the time being is holding back from carrying out a peace-keeping mission in the conflict zone.

Comments on Talks

LD1006162394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Video report by correspondent Sergey Omelchenko from Georgia, including recorded remarks by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Nelli Petkova] It is not ruled out that the operation to introduce peacekeeping forces into the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone could begin in the near future. ITAR-TASS reports that Eduard Shevardnadze has agreed to Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's proposal to immediately implement the peacekeeping action of the Russian Armed Forces in Abkhazia.

[Omelchenkc] At the meetings with Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, and the republic's Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze, it was decided to determine the status of Russian bases in Georgia prior to 1 August and to agree the peacekeeping mission of the Russian troops on the line of disengagement between the Georgian and Abkhaz troop units along the Inguri River.

There will be three Russian military bases on Georgian territory: in Vaziani not far from Tbilisi, in Akhalkalaki in the southwest of the republic, and in Batumi.

[Grachev] The main question will now be examined—namely stepping up peacekeeping along the disengagement line in this conflict. We will discuss the latest details with Eduard Amvrosiyevich [Shevardnadze] and then we will get down to tackling the practical stages of performing peacekeeping with the military leadership of the group of forces, the commander, and the defense minister.

[Omelchenko] The paratrooper regiment in Gudauta is virtually ready to carry out its peacekeeping mission on Abkhaz territory.

Talks With Shevardnadze

LD1006172794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who is paying a working visit to the Transcaucasus republics, arrived from Yerevan in Tbilisi today. [passage omitted]

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, held a one-to-one meeting at the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers, and were later joined by representatives of the Russian and Georgian sides.

The meeting discussed issues relating to the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, in particular, the timing and mechanism for the deployment of CIS peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone. The sides also discussed terms and conditions for the operation of the Russian military bases on Georgian territory.

Eduard Shevardnadze said that the meeting could be regarded as a new stage in relations between Russia and Georgia. It will help implement the plan that envisaged the introduction to the conflict area of CIS peacekeeping forces under UN aegis [as heard] and the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons.

In the second part of the day, the Russian defense minister flew to Gudauta to agree the introduction of peacekeeping forces to the conflict zone with the Abkhaz side.

Before leaving for Gudauta, Pavel Grachev said that the military aspect of the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia had in effect been completely solved. As regards the timing of their deployment, that could only be decided at political level.

The minister said that three motor rifle battalions from the Leningrad, Volga, and Urals Military Districts were ready to carry out the peace operation as part of a CIS force. Three days were needed to transfer them to the conflict zone. Pavel Grachev also said that the Gudauta-based 345th Parachute Regiment of the Russian Armed Forces might take part in the disengagement of forces. In addition to that, said the minister, it should not be ruled out that three battalions from the Group of Russian Troops in the Transcaucasus might also participate in the peace mission in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. The group commander has already been issued with relevant instructions.

It is expected that the Russian defense minister will return to Tbilisi later today to continue the discussion of the details of the deployment of CIS peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia.

Proposes Beginning Peacekeeping Operation

LD1006181794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev proposed to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze that the peacekeeping operation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict be started in five or six days, a participant in the talks between Shevardnadze and Grachev in Tbilisi on Friday told Interfax. The same source said that Shevardnadze had agreed.

During its first stage the peacekeeping operation is expected to be implemented by the 345th landing regiment, stationed in Gudauta (Abkhazia). After the Russian Federation Council adopts a decision on the introduction of Russian peacekeepers to the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, three more battalions formed on the basis of the Russian divisions stationed in the Leningrad and Privolzhskiy military districts, will be brought to the region.

Today Grachev arrived in Gudauta where he is now having a meeting with Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba. Grachev intends to discuss the peacekeeping operation in the zone of the Georgian- Abkhazian conflict and the issue on the presence of the 345th landing regiment in Abkhazia, Interfax learned from sources close to the Russian defense minister.

An Interfax correspondent in Abkhazia said that Commander of the Russian Airborne Troops, Colonel-General Yevgeniy Podkolzin had earlier arrived in Gudauta.

About 1,500 Russian "blue helmets" are expected to be brought to the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Government Approves Peacekeepers

LD1006203794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1940 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tbilisi, June 10 (TASS)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's mission on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict has been a success. After holding talks this morning with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and receiving his consent for Russia to begin a peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia, the minister left for Gudauta where he met with Vladislav Ardzinba and achieved the same result.

Taking part in the talks in Gudauta along with the Defense Minister Pavel Grachev were Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Georgia Vladimir Semskiy and Commander of Airborne Troops of the Russian Defense Ministry Colonel-General Gennadiy Podkolzin.

A final decision on the beginning of a peacekeeping operation will depend on the upper house of the Russian parliament. The defense minister expressed the hope that a session of the federation council scheduled for June 14 would approve Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree on the participation of Russian peacekeepers in the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

According to the defense minister, a peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia will begin three-five days after a political decision is adopted. He expressed the hope that along with Russia other Commonwealth countries would take part in the operation, particularly states - parties to the treaty on collective security.

In accordance with the worked out plan of the operation in Abkhazia, the defense minister explained, the first to start it will be units of the 345th Airborne Regiment stationed in Gudauta, as well as three battalions from the group of Russian troops in Transcaucasian region. The order on their formation has been already given.

In the future, Pavel Grachev noted, it is planned to bring into the zone of disengagement along the Inguri river the main forces—three battalions formed on the basis of peacekeeping divisions from the Leningrad and Privolzhskiy military districts. The personnel and materiel will be delivered by military transport aircraft to airports in Sukhumi and Gudauta.

On his return from Gudauta tonight, Pavel Grachev told journalists that a final calculation of all aspects of the peacekeeping operation and all means and forces to be involved in it would be made during this night. It is exactly with this aim that from the Tbilisi airport he set for the headquarters of the group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasian region where all details of the oncoming beginning of the peacekeeping operation will be discussed, according to informed sources from the government circles in Tbilisi.

Grachev Departs for Baku

LD1106093094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0817 GMT 11 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 Jun—Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has successfully completed his working visit to Tbilisi. He succeeded in obtaining the agreement of the warring Georgian and Abkhaz sides on the start in the near future of a peacekeeping operation in the conflict zone.

Taking part in the festive send-off ceremony were Georgia's Prime Minister Otar Patsatsiya, Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze, the command of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus, Russia's ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy, and other officials.

In the evening prior to his departure Grachev met with his Georgian counterpart Lieutenant-General Vardiko Nadibaidze. ITAR- TASS correspondents have learned that at this meeting questions of the development and strengthening of interaction and cooperation between the defense departments of Russia and Georgia were discussed, with the conversation being of a friendly and constructive nature.

Before his departure by plane for Baku early in the morning, Grachev met with generals and officers of the staff of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus. The meeting discussed questions of strengthening combat training, social protection for personnel and members of their families, options for the change-over by Russian troops stationed in Georgia to the principle of occupying bases. [perekhod no bazovyy printsip]

In Baku, as is expected, Grachev will meet with President Geydar Aliyev and will discuss the possibilities for a settlement of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflicts with the participation of Russian peacekeeping forces.

Shevardnadze on Russia's New Role as Peacemaker

LD1206062994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0523 GMT 12 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 12 Jun—"For all friendly states the Day of Russia's Independence will be a symbol of the new

Russia's democratic aspirations," Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, the speaker of the Georgian parliament, has told ITAR-TASS.

In the opinion of the Georgian leader, Russia is celebrating its Independence Day in new and different circumstances. Despite the fact that Russia is going through a difficult period of establishing itself economically and politically, a new social climate is forming in society.

"It is vital for all world countries that this country, which plays the decisive role in whether the post-Soviet region will become a conflict-free zone, remains stable," he noted. "If one is to speak about Russia's new role in history, it is the mission of peacemaker and guarantor of stability."

Shevardnadze, Yeltsin Discuss Abkhazia Settlement

LD1206184994 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] As reported earlier, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a telephone conversation yesterday.

Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze expressed satisfaction with decrees issued by the Russian president recently concerning the introduction of peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia. The head of state gave a positive assessment of Russian Defense Minister Grachev's visit, who came to Georgia on Yeltsin's instructions.

For his part, the Russian president expressed satisfaction with improved relations between our countries, which have already produced positive results in Abkhazia. He also stressed the need for a speedy settlement of the conflict and a timely return of refugees to Abkhazia.

The leaders of the two countries also discussed pressing issues relating to peace and stability in the Caucasus.

Shevardnadze Congratulates Yeltsin on Independence Day

LD1206162394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, sent a message of greetings to Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin. The message says:

Highly esteemed Boris Nikolayevich,

I am sincerely pleased to have the opportunity of conveying to you and all citizens of Russia the warmest greetings from the Georgian people and me personally in connection with the establishment of a new remarkable tradition to celebrate the statehood of a new Russia. In accordance with your edict, the day of the declaration of the Russian Federation's sovereignty has been declared a public holiday. I am confident that for all states that are Russia's friends this day will become a symbol of the new Russia's democratic aspirations.

I would like to take the opportunity provided by this festive occasion to stress once again the special importance that Georgia attaches to relations with Russia. This was fully reflected by the (?comprehensive) treaty signed in Tbilisi.

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, we value highly the effort put forth by Russian diplomacy and you personally aimed at achieving a speedy settlement of conflicts on the territory of Georgia. The Russian leadership has more than once reaffirmed its commitment to the territorial integrity of the Georgian state and the inviolability of its borders. We are convinced that future talks between our countries will contribute to the development of dynamic and purposeful relations.

It is natural that relations between our countries exceed the limits of bilateral relations. As regards Russia's special role in history, today it is primarily that of a guarantor of peace and stability.

I sincerely wish every citizen of Russia well-being, happiness, and prosperity.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze.

Georgia To Let Russia Build Military Bases

LD1006175694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1632 GMT 10 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tbilisi June 10 TASS—Georgia is ready to accept Russia's proposals to build its military bases on the Georgian territory but with certain reservations, vice-premier of the republic, Tamaz Nadareishvili, who is in charge of military construction, told ITAR-TASS today.

He made this statement in connection with the Russian defense minister's working visit to Georgia whose program includes not only specifying the terms and the mechanism for bringing Russian peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia, but also the continuation of the talks about stationing military bases on the territory of the republic instead of the present group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasian region.

According to Tamaz Nadareishvili, Georgia should have switched over to stationing Russian armed troops on its territory in military bases.

"But I have some counter-arguments in this question. After studying the materials of the previous Russian-Georgian talks on this issue, I cannot agree that the draft agreement determines only three Russian military bases—in Vaziani, Batumi and Akhalkalaki. In addition, the draft agreement should include such large places of disposition of Russian military units as Gudauta and Ochamchira. The Gudauta base should be leading on the

list of the supposed Russian military bases because it is the largest one and its geographic position is extremely important for Georgia. I am also puzzled why the Gudauta military base is taken out of control by the group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasian region as if Gudauta were not situated on the Georgian territory," Vice-Premier Tamaz Nadareishvili pointed out.

Shevardnadze Issues Edict on Armed Forces Reorganization

LD1006192094 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 0000 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued an edict introducing a number of changes in the organization and structure of the Georgian Defense Ministry.

The edict says that changes are needed due to the fact that the special purpose, rapid reaction and "mobile" units, which were set up in the past as part of the country's Armed Forces and were mainly staffed with volunteers, are at present having a negative effect on the process of creating regular units in the Georgian national army. According to the edict, the above-mentioned units are to be incorporated into motor rifle brigades of the Georgian Armed Forces.

The commander in chief's edict abolishes the Military Police Directorate on the grounds that it duplicates the duties of the republic's law enforcement bodies and fails to meet modern requirements.

The head of state's edict declares disbanded all military formations and groups that are not part of the Armed Forces. It says that their personnel and weaponry are to be used to staff and equip motor rifle brigades.

With the aim of establishing strict military discipline and order at Defense Ministry units, the edict orders the setting up of commandant's offices and garrisons in all towns and settlements where such units are based.

Shevardnadze Proposes Measures for War on Crime

LD1206155094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text of address by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze; place, date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state's address to the Georgian Parliament.

Along with other complex issues the issue of a fight against crime still remains an object of major concern to the authorities. Taking into consideration the geography of crime, criminal circles, and forms and character of crime, we can admit that we are facing a large-scale process of the criminalization of the society. To stop this has become a task of paramount importance. Reasons creating conditions for crime to grow require separate consideration. It must be noted that we cannot regard this as a local occurrence but as a matter related to processes accompanying the breakdown of state and social institutions of one system and the formation of new political and social relations.

Presently, the authorities have to make all efforts in order to secure normal living and working conditions for the people. This cannot be achieved without introducing serious changes in a fight against crime. In addition, it is necessary to implement an adequate legal policy which will primarily be based on a well- considered and systematic legislation.

In Georgia, like in all post-socialist states, a process of establishing a national legislation is under way. Various commissions are involved in work. However, the preparation of codified laws needs time. It is necessary that the Parliament select concrete problems, attach more attention to the forms and sorts of crime which have become a matter of extreme danger for the community. A struggle against these requires administrative and legal regulation. I regard it as a task of major urgency to have the following laws drafted and passed:

1. (The law) on the fight against terrorism and banditry;
2. (The law) on liability for forming illegal armed units and participating in those;
3. (The law) on the fight against organized crime.
4. (The law) on the fight against corruption.
5. (The law) on measures to fight business related to drugs trafficking.
6. (The law) on measures to ensure control and social rehabilitation of persons returning from places of confinement.
7. (The law) on liability for blocking transport routes.
8. (The law) on legal protection of law-enforcement bodies and courts of law.
9. (The law) on foreign economic activities.

In addition, drafting of new criminal, criminal procedure, penalty implementation, and administrative infringements codes has to be expedited.

I would like to inform the parliament that the Cabinet of Ministers and the Justice Ministry in particular, appropriate structures of law-enforcement bodies, academic offices and individual experts have been working hard in order to establish a legal basis for fighting crime. They have drafted many laws which will be soon ready to be considered in parliament. A few have already been submitted.

To fight against crime is an urgent requirement of the national progress. By failing to protect public tranquillity as well as to establish legislative and administrative institutions for this, the authorities impede political, economic and cultural development. Juridical, executive as well as legislative authorities cannot fail to apprehend this regularity.

The text of this address has been provided by Kontakt news agency.

Violence, Irregularities Mar Rustavi Election

LD1206194794 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 12 Jun 94

[No video available]

[Text] It seems that the people of Rustavi do not see among the six candidates for deputy a replacement for Zhiuli Shartava, who died in tragic circumstances. The reason for this may be the fact that by noon no more than 300 voters had turned up at any single polling station, in some of which up to 2,300 people are eligible to vote. The Central Electoral Commission still has no precise information (?on the turnout) due to the failure of telephone lines.

Unfortunately, the elections were not trouble-free either. For example, polling stations Nos. eight and 27 were closed owing to serious violations of the election law there.

At about 1800 hours, Rustavi Mayor Soso Areshidze told us by telephone that the situation in the city had become tense at about noon. At many polling stations there were incidents involving the intimidation of voters and Electoral Commission members, the disappearance of voters lists, the removal of seals from ballot boxes, and other serious violations of the electoral law.

At about 1900 hours this evening tension grew even further. At five stations elections were suspended. Many Electoral Commission members and some commission chairmen abandoned their polling stations.

The Rustavi mayor's office possesses information that an unidentified armed formation has entered the city and is acting without authorization. It is searching citizens, and there have also been incidents involving physical abuse.

We have just received information that the elections in Rustavi have in effect ended. A number of political parties have attempted to wreck the elections but they were, nevertheless, held against the background of a low turnout. The results are now being counted.

We will have more on the elections in our later bulletins today.

Election Nullification Expected

LD1306095994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] A by-election was held in Rustavi yesterday. Last night, speaking on Georgian TV, Besik Jalaghania, chairman of the Rustavi Electoral Commission, said the elections went smoothly and without hindrance until noon. At that time armed units appeared in town, who, according to Jalaghania, tried to exert pressure on voters and members of the Electoral Commission. It became impossible to continue the voting procedure in some polling stations.

According to Jalaghania members of the Mkhedrioni [paramilitary units united under the Georgian Rescue Corps] were among those causing the destabilization. The Mkhedrioni press center circulated a report that the organization had nothing in common with any of the candidates. Therefore, the small units acting in Rustavi yesterday did it on their own initiative.

Jalaghania also said that because of the disturbances he had to quit the elections and get away from Rustavi. He thinks that the by-election in Rustavi may be considered void.

Estonia

NATO Ministers Urge Agreement on Troop Withdrawal

WS1306100394 Tallinn BNS in English 1814 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Tallinn, June 10, BNS—The NATO foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday adopted a final communique which among other issues welcomed the recent agreement to complete the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia by Aug. 31, 1994.

The communique called on Estonia and Russia to resolve the remaining issues by negotiation and conclude soon an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops remaining in the Baltic nation by the same date.

The NATO foreign ministers underscored in the final communique that good cooperative relations between NATO and Russia will be the key element for security and stability in Europe. The document also expressed full support for the Pact on Stability in Europe, known as the Balladur Plan, which aims to solve questions related to frontiers and ethnic minorities in Central and Eastern Europe.

The communique noted that the implementation of NATO's Partnership for Peace program is well under way and that the first joint military exercises between partners will take place this autumn in the Netherlands and in Poland.

The NATO foreign ministers met today at a session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC] in Istanbul with their counterparts from Central European states and Russia. The NACC was founded in December 1991 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation in questions related to politics and security. Estonia was one of the founding members.

The meeting in Istanbul was addressed by Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik.

Meri Arrives in PRC for Cooperation Talks

LD1306053694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0454 GMT 13 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing, 13 June— Estonian President Lennart Meri and a delegation of Estonian businessmen have arrived in Beijing on an official visit at the invitation of the Chinese President Jiang Zemin. ITAR-TASS learned today from well-informed sources that at the forthcoming talks with Chinese leaders, L. Meri will discuss the prospects for bilateral cooperation, primarily in trade and sea transport, and international problems, including China's relations with Estonia and the CIS. A meeting of the heads of state is also expected today. L. Meri will spend seven days in China.

Latvia

Saeima Adopts Citizenship Bill

LD0906194294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Today a plenary session of the Saeima adopted at its second reading the Latvian citizenship bill. The bill determines that Latvian citizens are persons who were Latvian citizens on 17 June 1940, as well as those persons' descendants who have registered themselves in the manner laid down by law, excepting persons who, since 21 August 1991, have obtained citizenship of another country—that is, those who have obtained another country's citizenship since 21 August 1991 [sentence as heard]. According to this bill, citizens are also persons who have been naturalized or who have otherwise obtained citizenship of the Republic of Latvia in the manner determined by law; foundlings and orphans living in Latvian children's homes or boarding schools, as well as children, both of whose parents were citizens of the Republic of Latvia at the moment of their birth, irrespective of the child's place of birth. The Saeima plenary session is still continuing.

Finance Minister Notes Plans To Support Small Business

WS1306094794 Riga DIENA in Latvian 4 Jun 94 p 1

[Article by Baiba Melnace]

[Text] Riga, 3 Jun—Several influential foreign financial institutions, banks, and stock exchanges have promised to help get Latvia's financial system in order, Minister of Finance Uldis Osis reported at a press conference on his return from a visit to Germany and Luxembourg.

Over a period of three years, a financial system, aimed primarily at supporting small business, should be developed in Latvia. Therefore, investments in the national economy are necessary, which can be acquired from both the state budget (approximately 3-4 percent of national product) and foreign investments. In addition, in the future it is foreseen to refrain from state-guaranteed foreign credits, so that Latvian banks or businessmen can borrow money directly from abroad. Until now, all foreign credits coming into Latvia were directly or indirectly guaranteed by the government.

To create conditions enabling representatives of small businesses in Latvia to obtain credits with fewer formalities, it is necessary, in the first place, to develop and strengthen the Bank of Investments, said Osis. As a next step, the minister mentioned the formation of credit associations and savings banks. In this realm, said Osis, the German Cooperative Bank has pledged its assistance. It is also of greatest importance to establish an association of credits and guarantees, which would be able to provide a guarantee to small enterprises receiving credits. Two Finnish companies are willing to assist in establishing this kind of association in Latvia, Osis

reported. According to him, Western experts have advised Latvia to consider the possibility of becoming an "offshore" financial center.

Finance Minister Warns Against Increased Tariffs

WS1306100194 Riga DIENA in Latvian 4 Jun 94 pp 1, 8

[Article by Baiba Melnace]

[Excerpts] Riga, 3 Jun—[passage omitted] Finance Minister Uldis Osis emphasized at a press conference that consultations have been held with representatives of several international financial organizations in Latvia who expressed a universally negative opinion on any possible increase in import tariffs. If tariffs are raised, Latvia will not receive, over the next two years, approximately $250 million worth of foreign credits. In addition, the granting of a G- 24 credit would be canceled. A $90 million credit earmarked by the IMF would be tied up, and two credit lines at the World Bank would be suspended—a $50 million credit for agriculture, and $35 million earmarked for the development of the Latvian Universal Credit Bank. [passage omitted]

Summarizing the possibilities, an increase in customs tariffs would mean a complete change in Latvian economic policy, stated Osis. Consequently, a move toward protectionism would take place and any decent competition would be destroyed by supporting ineffective production.

The finance minister accused the Latvian delegation to the talks with the European Union, concerning a free trade agreement, of presenting—during the course of negotiations— new, higher customs tariffs instead of the present effective ones, and deemed it an illegal and wrongful action. "These tariffs have not been accepted, either by the government or by the parliament's Budget and Finance Committee, therefore the delegation had no right to propose such tariffs," stated Osis.

The Latvian Finance Ministry, however, does not at all intend to utterly resign from import customs duties, emphasized Osis. The following compromise is being considered—for approximately six agricultural products, tariffs would be raised by 50-70 percent over the present amount. The types of products would be determined on the bases of the Latvian agricultural development program, which has not yet been worked out. After choosing these five or six products, which will be decided to be beneficial for Latvia, their production will be supported by establishing respectively high customs tariffs.

Consumer Prices Rise 0.2 Percent in May

WS1006102194 Tallinn BNS in English 1548 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Riga, Jun 09, BNS—The consumer prices in Latvia rose 0.2 percent between April and May, according to figures from the State Statistics Committee. As reported, the inflation was 2.7 in April, 1.7 percent in March, 3.4 percent in February and 3.8 percent in January. Thus, in May compared with December, 1993, prices rose 12.4 percent. The annual inflation rate since May, 1993, is 32.2 percent.

In 1993 and 1994, inflation reached its peak last November when prices soared 8.8 percent. The prices went down last August when deflation ran at 1.7 percent.

The Cabinet rose the monthly minimum wages from 15 lats to 22.5 lats, or 50 percent, beginning with May 1.

Regardless of inflation, the exchange rate of the national currency, the lat, against the Special Drawing Rights [SDR] currency basket remained stable 79.97 santimes against 1 SDR unit.

The Bank of Latvia's refinancing rate also remained unchanged, it was 27 percent per year. Simultaneously, the hidden interest rates in auctions of state treasury bills rose from 29 percent to 39 percent. The average discount rate of state securities was 23.5 percent in May.

The monthly inflation rate in Latvia should not exceed 0.5 percent, according to requirements in the joint economic development memorandum of Latvia and the International Monetary Fund. In Estonia, the inflation ran at 1.1 percent in May, in Lithuania—6.2 percent, in Russia—8.7 percent.

In Latvia, the prices of foodstuffs dropped 1.2 percent, clothing and footwear became 1.5 percent more expensive, public utility bills increased 0.7 percent while household expenses were 0.9 percent up. Health care spendings rose 2 percent, prices of communications and transport grew 1.1 percent, culture and education required 2.9 percent larger spendings while alcohol and tobacco prices increased 0.1 percent.

Lithuania

Proposals for Steps Under NATO Plan Delivered

WS1306094694 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Vilnius, June 11, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys at a meeting with NATO Assistant Secretary General Sergio Balanzino in Istanbul Friday delivered Lithuania's set of propositions for activity under the NATO Partnership for Peace program, the Foreign Ministry press office said.

Gylys takes part in Istanbul in a foreign ministers meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC].

The document delivered to the NATO assistant secretary general lays the basis for outlining a separate cooperation program between Lithuania and NATO under the partnership plan.

The Lithuanian foreign minister is his speech before the NACC meeting pronounced his country's wish that the NATO partnership program would take into account the needs of each participating country. In his words the Partnership for Peace program allows active partners to play a great role in expanding the alliance.

Gylys also referred in his speech to the problem of Russian military transits to the Kaliningrad enclave through Lithuania's territory. He underscored that finding a solution to the issue must not be linked to carrying out the stipulations of the Lithuanian- Russian agreements that have been signed earlier.

Russian Diplomat on Latest Round of Talks

WS1006101994 Tallinn BNS in English 1548 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jun 09, BNS—The head of the Russian delegation for talks with Lithuania confirmed that "Russia links the problem of transit and normal functioning of the Kaliningrad region to Lithuania's most favored nation trade status."

Viktor Isakov noted that "this is not a trap of officials or the (Russian) Foreign Ministry," but "the line of the country's leadership."

In an interview with the Vilnius-based Russian-language ECHO LITVY newspaper, Isakov commented on a round of Lithuanian-Russian talks that was held in Vilnius June 7-8.

Discussing Russian military transit, the Russian diplomat said Russia "is not asking anything from Lithuania,...,and does not demand to create some uncontrolled corridor." Isakov noted, however, that Russia has some things to complain about. In his words, "entire tank-cars of fuel disappear during transit through Lithuanian territory." The Russian diplomat said "explanations that cargos are redirected and even that mafia is involved are not convincing."

Commenting on accusations that Russia pressurizes Lithuania, Isakov said "not a single example of such threats and statements was presented by the Lithuanian side. On the contrary, threats to "shut in" the Kaliningrad region are already heard from the Lithuanian side." In Isakov's view, difficulties in talks on sea borders are "completely natural yet possible to overcome."

Isakov said assertions that Kaliningrad poses a military threat is a fiction, "just another card in the game of those who do not want improvement of relations" between Lithuania and Russia.

Six New Ministers Appointed

LD1006101494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Being guided by the Lithuanian Constitution and taking into consideration the presentation by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, President Algirdas Brazauskas appointed in his edicts six ministers today:

Mindaugas Laurynas Stankevicius was appointed minister of administration reforms and municipal affairs, releasing him of his duties as minister of social insurance. The edict comes into force on 1 July.

Bronius Brazauskas was appointed minister of the protection of environment. The edict comes into force on 15 June.

Vladislovas Domarkas was appointed minister of education and science. Dainius Trinkunas—minister of culture; Albertas Vasiliauskas—minister of forestry; Aleksandras Vasiliauskas—minister of economy. The edicts as regards these ministers come into force today [10 June].